

**It's Still
FREE**

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The REPORTER
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly



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**Last Week Was
A Week of Days** *Dia di Rincon, Earth Day and More*

On the Cover: *Linda van Luyk and Soila Amelia at the Kushina di Sjon Nana, During Rincon Day*

Laura DeSalvo photo

Some of Bonaire's drinking water has been brown and brackish



WATER EN ENERGIEBEDRIJF BONAIRE N.V.

in a number of Bonaire neighborhoods lately, particularly in Nikiboko South, Tera Korá, Belnem and Hato. WEB blamed the problem on old water pipes and the lack of rain during the past months causing the demand for water to increase so much that WEB used its reserve supply.

There was insufficient production capacity to supplement the reserve because of problems in the desalination plant, WEB said.

A supplementary plant is currently supplying an additional 400 cubic meters of water per day.

WEB said that as soon as they receive a complaint of brown water the pipes in the neighborhood are flushed as a temporary solution. The company says that in spite of the brown color, the water does not pose a health care threat and is **absolutely fit for consumption**.

Kumukeros (farmers) are affected by a different problem. One of WEB's water trucks is out of service resulting in delays in the water supply to rural areas. However, the water is clear as it comes directly from the desalination plant.

►Curaçao based airlines are expanding their service in the Caribbean basin and improving connections with Bonaire.

Insel Air will start jet service between Curaçao and Aruba this month. This is an increase of more than 300 seats daily on the route between Willemstad and Oranjestad since Insel intends to start the service with its 152-passenger jet.

Insel Air says it will also improve the connections to its destinations in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic and increase up to seven flights per day

for Bonaire with its prop-jet.

The airline said will start with a Comfort Class service this summer for the new destinations of Medellín and Bogotá, Colombia, and Kingston, Jamaica. Online check-in will soon be possible.

►**Dutch Antilles Express (DAE) celebrated its first flight from Curaçao to Cartagena last week** 2½ hours later than scheduled due to an unrelated job action at the Curaçao airport. DAE already flies to the capital of Bogotá twice a week and added the two-hour flight to Cartagena twice a week – on Saturday and Monday.

"We are also thinking about more connections – not only for Curaçao – but also for Bonaire, Aruba and St. Maarten," said Steve Sloop sales manager of DAE.

► **Airline passengers who had been stranded in the ABC Islands** due to the ash cloud from the Iceland volcano eruption had complaints about the bad service and information provided by KLM. EU-Claim, an organization assisting passengers filing a claim, told Radio Netherlands that they had received many complaints by telephone.

KLM regional manager for the Caribbean area, Simone Wickenhagen, responded to the report of the World Broadcast. "We are not aware of complaints from passengers in Bonaire or Curaçao." About 250 passengers were stranded in Bonaire. Air France-KLM was said to have lost \$50 million a day.

► **THE HAGUE--It makes no sense for the BES islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) to take their protest against the introduction of same sex marriages and the legalization of abortion and euthanasia to the United Nations (UN).**

Dutch caretaker State Secretary of Kingdom Relations, Ank

► **Occupancy figures for a sample of Bonaire resorts/hotels have been released:** According to the BONHATA president's quarterly report, occupancy figures for Bonaire's accommodation providers, both large (50+ units) and small, were in line or slightly above their occupancy figures of 2009. The table below shows the actual figures and the projected figures based on reservations (in italics).

BONHATA Occupancy 2009-2010 (2010 numbers in italics are projected figures)

Month	2009	2010	Difference
Jan	59.23	61.25	3.41%
Feb	72.26	69.78	-3.43%
Mar	63.66	66.09	3.82%
Apr	53.65	52.06	
May	45.30	48.02	
Jun	43.70	32.98	
1Q Overall	65.05	65.71	1.01%

Hotels participating in the overall occupancy figures include Captain Don's Habitat, Den Laman, Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino, Harbour Village Beach Club, Kontiki Beach Bonaire and Sand Dollar Condominiums.

Bijleveld-Schouten, said on the Dutch radio program, "One on the Day," (*Eén op de Dag*) last Tuesday. According to her, a procedure at the UN, as suggested in the motion that Statia's Island Council adopted, doesn't stand a chance.

"I had planned a transition phase of five years," said Bijleveld-Schouten, "but the Second Chamber has decided differently. I will now consult with the islands how best to implement the legislation."

Turn to page 23 for a comprehensive update on the status of Bonaire's transition into The Netherlands.

► **The idea of consulting**



with the people of former colonies regarding their future is gaining popularity not just in Bonaire. The US House of Representatives last Thursday approved legislation that

could set in motion changes in Puerto Rico's 112-year relationship with the US, including a transition to statehood or independence.

The House bill would give the 4 million residents of the island commonwealth a two-step path to expressing how they envision their political future. It passed 223 to 169 and now must be considered by the Senate.

Initially, eligible voters, including those born in Puerto Rico but residing in the US, would vote on whether they wish to keep their current political status or opt for a different direction.

If a majority is in favor of changing the current situation, the Puerto Rican government would be authorized to conduct a second vote, and people would choose among four options: statehood, independence, the current commonwealth status or sovereignty in association with the US. Congress would have to vote on whether Puerto Rico becomes a state.

►The Prime Minister of St
(Continued on page 10)

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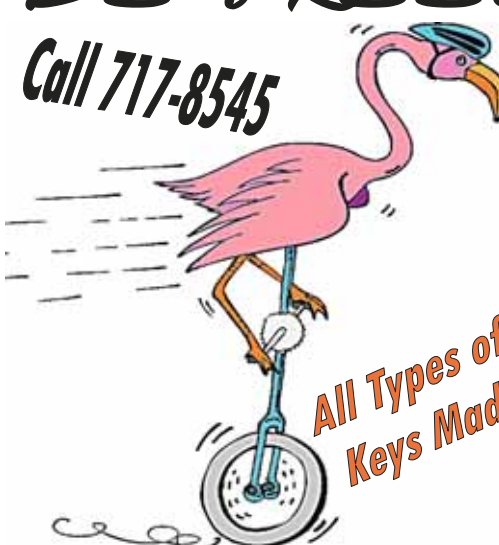
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Hello \$ - Ayo NAf

People on the BES Islands should soon start exchanging Antillean guilders for dollars, says the *De Nederlandse Bank* (DNB-The Dutch National Bank) which is responsible for the smooth progress of the changeover. Now that most of the parliamentary hurdles have been passed and the October 10 integration of the BES Islands into the Antilles is secure, the total switch to the dollar as the currency of the islands is set for **January 1, 2011**. At that time the local banks will automatically convert the guilders you have in your account to dollars at a rate of NAf 1,79 to \$1, a slightly less favorable rate than the 1,75 to 1,78 now available.

The DNB advises that prior to October 1, 2010, exchange as many guilders as possible because on January 1, 2011, the US dollar will be introduced as the local currency, and on February 1, 2011, the Antillean guilder will cease to be legal tender on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. It will, however, remain the currency of Curaçao and St. Maarten.

The Dutch Ministry of Finance has requested the DNB to organize the transition to the new currency and to work out the details with banks, enterprises and retail

businesses in the coming months. The currency changeover scenario for Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba is based on the euro introduction scenario applied in the Netherlands years ago but adapted to local circumstances. The scenario describes the smoothest possible way for realizing the currency changeover, distinguishing between a cash part and a non-cash part.

The key moment for the changeover will be Saturday, January 1, 2011, at 00.00 hr. At that moment, the US dollar will become the legal tender on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. From then on, non-cash payments will only be done in US dollars. Account balances in guilders will automatically be converted to US dollars. Loan agreements, mortgages, etc. must also be converted by then.

For cash payments on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba, guilder banknotes and coins will still be accepted until February 1, 2011.

The official exchange rate at the moment of introduction of the US dollar is set at NAf 1,79 for 1 US dollar. It has been provided by law that all guilder amounts will be converted to US dollar amounts by operation of law. This implies that citizens and enter-

prises will not need to take action in this regard. The same holds for loan agreements, mortgages etc.

Cash Changeover:

- From January 1, 2011, banks will issue only US dollars, both via ATMs and counters.
- Retailers are requested to make sure that as from January 1, 2011, they give back change in US dollar notes and coins only.
- Residents are advised first to use up their guilder notes and coins for payments before January 1, 2011.
- When paying in shops, residents are advised not to use large quantities of guilder coins and to avoid the use of two currencies in one payment transaction.
- Cash payments in guilders shall in principle be accepted until February 1, 2011.
- As from January 1, 2011, checks shall be paid out in US dollars, also when written out in guilders.
- After January 1, 2011, checks may only be written out in US dollars.

The public will be advised to exchange guilder coins at a bank prior to October 2010 or deposit coins to an account.

On December 31, 2010, it is hoped to have a sufficient supply of dollar coins and notes



(including the lower denominations) available on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

After expiration of the period during which payments can be made in either guilders or dollars, citizens shall still be able to exchange guilders at banks on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba against dollars, free of charge, until a date yet to be decided. From that date onwards, exchanging guilders shall be subject to the same fee as the purchase and sale of foreign currency.

Non-Cash Exchange

On January 1, 2011, at 00.00 hr., all guilder accounts held with bank branches on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba shall automatically be converted to dollar accounts. It will not be possible for citizens and businesses to convert their **existing accounts** to dollar accounts prior to the changeover.

• Enterprises and retailers shall make the necessary arrangements to ensure that they can effect all non-cash payments in dollars as from the date of the changeover.

• To this end they shall make sure that their accounting systems are adjusted accordingly in time and able to work in dollars. Cash registers with pre-programmed conversion buttons shall be adjusted.

• Banks shall be ready in time for the conversion of non-cash balances to dollars and the transition of non-cash payments to the US dollar.

• DNB will closely monitor the progress of the conversion to the systems.

The DNB says the success of the changeover hinges on good communication. DNB will distribute information on payments. Banks, enterprises and institutions will need to inform their customers on branch-specific subjects. ■

Press release/G.D.



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Carsten Cilissen: On the Island Since - June, 2005

"I am from Belgium, but when I was in Holland I'd met these Bonairean people. They showed me photographs, they cooked Krioyo food for me and they taught me some Papiamentu and... I fell in love with Bonaire.

In Belgium I had my own tattoo shop for eight years. The business was doing really well; it was a lot of work pressure and stress. You know, that's life in Europe. I was longing for change and I wanted to break free from the routine of daily life. I went - just like that - closed the business, sold my motorbike and came here for a vacation and after 10 days I called my mom and told her 'I'm staying here.'

I started with all the paperwork to establish my own business and I began to work immediately - a dinner for a tattoo - and there was always a place to sleep. That's how time passed by until my BV was set up and I officially started to work in Nikiboko. Well, to make a long story

short, I sat for three years in Nikiboko, building up my clientele, and this year I moved to Kaya Korona.

I was six years old when I saw my first tattoo. I was on an outing with my parents when we arrived at this big railway station and there I saw somebody with a tattoo. I was swept off my feet! Awesome! That was 27 years ago. Few people had a tattoo in those days. I always had a great love for painting and drawing, so I went to the Art Academy in Hasselt, Belgium. After I'd finished I immediately went to work at South Side Tattoo, a shop in Valkenburg, the Netherlands, where I had three years of training. Then I set up my own business in Belgium. I was 21. By that time I had three tattoos.

Working with all sorts of people is something I enjoy very much; everybody makes a different choice, has a different taste and you hardly ever do the same thing twice. When you're a

painter or a sculptor you sell your work only once in every so many months or years. But when you're a tattoo artist you sell your work three, four times a day. That's very satisfying. Nowadays tattoos are a work of art appreciated by all kinds of people. They're immensely popular and the techniques have improved tremendously. Every time you put on a tattoo you give a part of yourself to someone and people never forget you. They carry your art around as long as they're alive. Oh, yeah, and by the way, women are much tougher than guys.

I often discourage people from putting on a certain tattoo - because of their work or because it's provoking. Things that are insulting to other people I don't want to do at all, and if I think it's not aesthetically justified I won't either. There are lots of funny people, but I don't want to push them further to the edge of society because of the tattoo I put on them.

As a matter of fact, I do put tattoos on every spot of the body, but it has to fit someone. Before I start, I talk a lot with my clients about how they want it and why and I always give them time to think. Especially when they want a tattoo on the hands or the face I

let them think it over for a week or two."

He laughs. "I love to talk - that's why I came to live on Bonaire! Really, it's very important to know what somebody is like and it's a good feeling when people come and ask my opinion.

The body is 'the temple of the soul' and by expressing themselves by putting on a tattoo or a piercing, people want to show other people who they are, to tell them that they're special.



Carsten Cilissen

"... by expressing themselves by putting a tattoo or a piercing, people want to show other people who they are, to tell them that they're special"

Just before I started on Bonaire, tattoos were just hype - now it's unstoppable. The moment Rihanna has a new tattoo I get at least 20 girls who want the same one. It's a status symbol; it's no longer about gold necklaces, Rolex or gold teeth. When your body is covered with tattoos

you've had your hours at the tattoo shop and that comes with a prize as well. The majority of people I get here is between 20 and 45, but I also get older people.

What they like best on Bonaire are religious images, but also

(Continued on page 5)

			
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On the Island Since (Continued from page 4)
 typical Bonairean things like a *karko* (conch), Seru Largo, the village of Rincon with its church or the *shimaruku* flower. To me, Bonaire's nature is like a whole new world that has opened up to me – different shapes and colors and it is inexhaustible. It really is extremely inspiring and it makes me want to paint and sculpture as well, but then time... But I feel my work is so much more appreciated here and that's just great. I was even asked to participate this year in Dia di Arte at the art market, and I see it as a big compliment."

Carsten (33) is a philosophical man. He's mellow and gentle. He doesn't go around things; he's absolutely sincere and a real people's person. He makes you feel at ease instantly. His shop is totally clean and well organized and a big sign says, "God sees me – people don't curse here.

"People here have a rich culture: the food, the music and the dances, the stories, life at the *kunuku*, the way they make you feel welcome. It's so different and so very special. Of course there are minor things that aren't so beautiful, but even in Paradise there was a snake in the grass.

The majority of my friends are Antillean. When I came here I immediately moved into the barrios and those are the people I live with, the people I see and talk to every day. My Papiamentu is okay, it came fast. I learned it myself. Also because my girlfriend has a four-year-old daughter, my *yu di kriansa* (step child), who was desperate to talk to me, to explain everything to me. And a little kid has patience. But I was already interested.

It really is an unbelievably beautiful language, an art language.

Of all the beauty Bonaire gave me, the most beautiful and precious thing is my daughter, Kenya, who was born March 1st 2008. With a little bit of luck she's going to be my successor. She talks to my clients, goes through the photo books and she has her sticker tattoos. Every day I have to put at least two new ones on, otherwise I'm in trouble. Unfortunately, she's only with me during the weekends, but she's welcome every minute of the day or night. I totally comply with her wishes and I would love to have her constantly with me. There's only one thing I live for and that's my child. Ever since I became a father, saw her being born, my whole life has changed.

It's good to be here; I'm so much more motivated. In Europe life is achievement oriented, but I care more for people around me and tranquility and peace. Money is important, but to start the day with a beautiful sunrise is really special. The mentality here is different; people live more from day to day, plans are being made but they're always on short term and what we can't do today we might be able to do tomorrow. It's quite an adjustment, but then you learn to enjoy it. The way we Europeans think is somewhat ridiculous and we're playing with fire because we don't enjoy the time we are living in. Here you get ahead slowly but surely. It takes a long time – but... you



Tattoo artist Carsten Cilissen and his client Gerbert Louiza

get there.

I never wanted a child when I was in Belgium because you don't see it growing up. Here you see it all – the first step, the first time it goes potty. Time is a different dimension. You can't keep up the European pace here. If you do, you'll die of a heart attack.

I am proud to be Belgian and when it's a Belgian holiday I hang out the flag. But I am used to the life on Bonaire. I've adjusted myself and I don't think about it anymore. The plans I have for the future are just lingering. I would like to have a piece of land so I can build my own house, I would like to organize meetings in the Caribbean for tattoo artists, but... if

my daughter wants it differently, I'll go where she wants to go - but for now I'm good.

Sometimes, when I am with my friends and I mention I am a foreigner, they tell me 'Ai, no Carsten, no man, you're not a foreigner, you're one of us!' That's a sweet feeling, the feeling of being totally accepted. It makes everything all right." ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



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Reuse the Past, Recycle the Present, Save the Future

Talk of environmental issues and sustainable development is not new on Bonaire but a significant step towards progress in this area was made in an Earth Day conference at Divi Flamingo on Friday April 23rd. Organizers *Fundashon Tene Bonairu Limpi* in partnership with SELIBON NV, STINAPA Bonaire, and Tourism Corporation Bonaire NV achieved a great feat of bringing together a broad range of stakeholders. This led to interesting debates on a variety of topics about which the attendees were deeply passionate and concerned.

Conference Chairman **Sherwin Pourier** set a clear agenda in his introduction by saying, "If we continue the way we are heading our grandchildren will never see Bonaire as beautiful as we do." He quickly got to introducing the first keynote speaker, Lt. **Governor Glenn Thodé**, who was present throughout the conference. In his presentation Thodé recognized that "we depend on the health of Bonaire for the health of ourselves" and went on to say "If we care about ourselves we need also to care for Bonaire." Without being specific the Lt. Governor reflected on projects that have come and gone on Bonaire. He suggested any program that is begun should be thought out and seemingly mid way through his presentation he decided that "think things through" would be his mantra for the day. This was to be a very relevant comment that resurfaced several times in later debates.



The second keynote speaker was **Timo Brouwer**, a passionate environmentalist and CEO of the Curaçao-based collection and recycling company, Green Force. There could be no confusing Brouwer's refreshingly direct statements such as "Humans are emptying the resources of the planet." He also provided some shocking facts, which clearly justify why we should all become more environmentally friendly.

- There is an estimated 700,000 – 15M km² of trash floating in the sea
- One million seabirds choke or get tangled in plastic nets and debris every year.

- **In the Netherlands 5% of waste goes to landfill, but on Bonaire 95% goes to landfill**

Brouwer's presentation moved on to illustrate the different materials that could be recycled and the economic and envi-

ronmental savings from doing so. The audience interrupted him with applause when he suggested "Bonaire should ban plastic bags." He covered a great deal of issues and made it clear Bonaire had much to gain from adopting more sustainable approaches. You can find out more about Green Force and Brouwer's work at www.greenforceCuraçao.com

Following the two excellent speakers the floor was opened up for debate. Chairman Pourier asked for the audience's opinions on the roles of private and public sector organizations in developing more sustainable waste management and where responsibility should lie. **Elsmarie Beukenboom**, of STINAPA Bonaire, was quick to voice her opinion that it was necessary to have enforcement of environmental laws but for that to happen there needs to be policies in place. She then drew attention to legislation *Tene Bonairu Limpi* had previously drafted for improved waste management, which had unfortunately never been taken on by the government.

Divi Flamingo's **Sara Matera** reminded people about the deposit scheme Bonaire once had to encourage people to return glass bottles. The audience were in support of such a scheme returning to the island. Glass bottle re-use is of course even better than glass recycling as it removes the need for manufacturing of new bottles.

The topic of glass was always going to be an important one with people asking what happened to the yellow bins and the recycling program. The Lt. Governor used this example to recommend that future programs need to "think things through." He added that glass was not perhaps the most important material to focus on. Brouwer supported this by highlighting the economic and environmental gains from recycling aluminum. However, **Peter Montanus** from DROB pointed out that on Bonaire glass can at times represent 50% of the island's waste. No clear answers were provided on the failed glass recycling mystery, but that was not the purpose of this meeting anyway.

Discussions continued and were informative, positive and solution oriented. This was perhaps because of the concern this diverse group of people clearly feel for these environmental issues. The attendees could have continued even after the two hours of debate but there were awards to give out and a campaign to begin. Among those receiving awards were **Joke's Mini Market, Progresso** and **Cultimara** for their long standing commitment to not using plastic shopping bags, and the two keynote speakers who received art made using recycled materials.

Tene Bonairu Limpi's new campaign is "Shop With A Bag," and the Lt. Governor was the first person to receive one of the foundation's reusable bags, which were later presented to each conference participant. Before closing the event the organizers presented a summary of the meeting.



Glass awaiting recycling at the landfill



Tene Bonairu Limpi's new campaign is "Shop With A Bag." Here Lt. Governor Glenn Thodé receives the first one.

Although it's likely that the Fundashon will need to focus still further, the rather long summary reflected the fact the meeting was a great success and that a broad range of topics had been discussed.

Thanks must be given to the organizers who successfully brought environmental issues into the limelight and for their achievement in bringing together the di-

verse group of stakeholders. Let's hope this momentum continues and we can make sure future generations have the opportunity to see "Bonaire as beautiful as we do." ■



Sam Williams



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BONAIREAN VOICES

BONAIREAN CULTURAL FESTIVALS



Simadan Dance

Real Bonairean culture is based on traditions that go back many generations and are chronicled in songs and dances that are performed during holidays and festivals.

Those early days of slavery conditioned the people in the need to be strong in the face of adversity. And it was during this time that the spirit of the people began to develop and strengthen. They made up songs and invented dances and began to sing in the old African tradition.

These songs and dances evolved into festivals and have survived to become an important part of life and culture on Bonaire.

The dances of the **Simadan** (celebrated during agriculture harvests) and the **Bari** (at the end of the year) festivals are the best known traditional dances which continue to this very day.

Many of these festivals are regional. It may be strange that this small island could have regional differences. The village of Rincon is perhaps most apt to celebrate all

the holidays in grand style, while the village of North Salinja devotes a lot of energy to **Maskarada**, which is celebrated at the beginning of the year January 1 to 6.

The best example of strong cultural ties is during **Dia di Rincon**. Thousands of participants come from all the Antilles, Aruba, America and Europe to celebrate. In its 22nd on-going celebration it continues to be the biggest festival on Bonaire. People love Rincon food, music, folklore and its people. Rincon is a village on its own which has kept the traditions with strong hands. Thanks to the younger generation who continue in the footsteps of our forefathers.

In my next article I will have a more complete explanation of Rincon Day, how it started and the real meaning of the day. ■

Siomara Albertus

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



Perfect Fitness For All



Kirsten Marsman with some of her students

Bonaire is fortunate in having a professional sports trainer-therapist teaching on the island. Kirsten Marsman, who in the past worked with Dutch football players, currently has a loyal group of students who benefit from her personalized fitness classes at the Health & Fitness Centre Bonaire, next to the bowling alley. It's more than just fitness; it's fitness with a medical touch. Her classes are for everyone: all ages, healthy and those with a medical condition.

The trainer began her studies and career as a neuro-surgical nurse, but as she says, "I found out that I like to help people get on the road again by exercising and training mentally and physically – since the body and mind are one. The mental part I'd learned in higher nursing education so I decided to focus on the physical part (sport physiotherapy)."

Kirsten had her own sports medicine health center in Holland, "Fysio Fit," with a team of all kinds of medical therapists. Besides rehabilitation training she trained healthy people as well. "And since we were specialized in sports,"

Kirsten explains, "we had the honor of training and accompanying injured professional football (soccer) players from the FC Twente team (the #1 Dutch team at this moment)."

She started a daily physical training program on Dutch TV for those who didn't want to go to a gym. The program continues today with other presenters.

Kirsten's classes here in Bonaire are 1½ hours long, twice a week: 30 minutes of stretching, low impact warming up, high impact warming up/endurance training, stretching to let the heart rate go down. Then 30 minutes of floor exercises - a workout for the total body, giving extra attention to less developed muscle groups. Then a 20-minute workout on Technogym® machines following a personalized training program. Last but not least, 10 minutes of relaxation exercises and stretching.

Kirsten's classes are on Tuesday and Thursdays from 8 to 9:30 am –1½ hours of training, twice a week for NAf 70 per month. Call her at 717-3700 or email:

kirsten.marsman@24orange.nl

■ *Laura DeSalvo*

DO YOU SUDOKU?

To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region. **Answer on page 19.**

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

Doei Finies from Rincon and his true blue Jeep CJ-5

The 69th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels." On course for 100+



Doei Finies with his dog and Ford Jeep

Rincon/ Bonaire – So it was in the second part of April that I rode my motorcycle over the unpaved roads and tracks in the hardly discovered area in the north-eastern direction from Dos Pos, Rincon. I had been there once before and I remembered a blue Jeep in front of a humble, bright green painted house situated on a huge terrain. It is always a little bit tricky to be completely on your own in the outback of Bonaire on a motorcycle without a spare tire. Especially after the recent heavy rainfall there were a lot of little rocks on the tracks and maybe needles from the cactus and old nails and glass...

Then, after searching around for many miles I noticed the blue Jeep. It had not been moved by a single inch since the last time I was in this remote area. I shut off the engine of my off-road bike and parked it on the jiffy. There were some persons sitting on the porch and I asked for permission to enter the neat and well maintained property.

Mr. and Mrs. Finies immediately offered me a chair, something to drink and some candies. Then Douglas Finies, a real Rinconero, better known as "Doei," started to tell about his rancho and his goats, about Rincon and about the Jeep.

He is the fourth owner and the Jeep was made by Ford. Slowly we walked in the direction of the four-wheel drive. A dog was guarding the Jeep and the terrain. Doei paid a little attention to the animal and then I was accepted.

Some years ago the Jeep was parked in the front garden of the house after some

brake problems. The Jeep stands in the centre of the garden as if the vehicle is a kind of statue or monument. No, it is not in running condition anymore and it would take a lot of work and metal to repair it, but the vehicle is tough and it will take years to lose its characteristic shape and model. Finally it has to be given back to earth. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

Doei says this Jeep was built by the Ford Motor Company. As we walk around the vehicle it is very difficult to find a single part that says "Ford." No marks on whatever parts, not on the steering wheel, nor on the bonnet, nor stamped on the rear lid. This is a kind of a mystery car to me. No marks on the engine.

Then I notice the aluminum plate mounted on the dashboard with four rivets. It reads: "Posiciones de las palancas" and it informs us about the correct use of high gear, low gear, two-wheel drive, four-wheel drive, neutral position. Maybe this car was manufactured or assembled in Spain or in a Latin American country...

This four-cylinder Ford is equipped with a four-speed gear box. The engine does not look that impressive to me. Maybe some two liters. It is an overhead valve, overhead camshaft power plant. There is a small carburetor and a dry air cleaner. No extras, no luxury. Just a small amount of functional parts. Just one window and one wiper, no doors, no seat belts. No nothing.

Around the silver painted wheels 6.00 X 16 inch 6 ply rating shoes are mounted. The side of the tires read: "Papaleguas."* Then I take a closer look at the front wheels. There are AVM standard automatic free-wheel hubs produced under license from Warn USA by "Ind. Brasil." Now we are getting close! The instructions about the correct use of the four-speed gearbox are written in Portuguese. There is some research and homework to do. I take some more pictures of the details of the car: typical Jeep grill with seven slots, small white indicator lights in the front, filler cap from the gasoline tank on the left hand side near the driver's seat, tail gate with chains, no "Ford" stamped on the tail gate, weird wiper motor.

Then Doei and I walk back to the house. Aura, Doei's wife, prepares us another drink. We talk a little about Rincon, the labor Doei did, those days, working in building construction in and around Playa. Now he is retired. A *pensionado* he is. And he and his wife Aura really enjoy the silence and the peace of the Rincon outback. There are the plants and the trees, the greenhouse, the cattle of goats, the "fornu di karbon" (a pit to prepare charcoal/jb) and the blue painted Ford Jeep CJ5. The more I look at the vehicle the more I think it fits in the landscape. One day, after several decades, the Jeep will be completely absorbed by nature...

Ford do Brasil bought Willys on 9 October 1967 and continued to produce the model CJ-5. They replaced only the name "Willys" with "Ford" on the side and rear of the body. In the mid-1970s, the Ford CJ-5 received a new 2300cc four-cylinder engine, and a four-speed synchronized gearbox. In 1980 some units began to be set up to use ethyl alcohol fuel. However, in 1983 Ford do Brasil ceased production of the so called "Jipe".

■ Story & photo by J@n Brouwer

* "Papaleguas," the Portuguese word, written on the side of the 16-inch off road tires stands for Road Runner. The pattern of the thread of the tire reminds me of the old Goodyear pattern.



Original Ford Brazil ad for their "Jipe." Internet photo

BonQuiz #29

THE FRATERS



The "Fraters van Tilburg," the Brothers of Tilburg, who came from that Dutch southern city in the province of Noord-Brabant, landed on Bonaire in 1914. These Brothers were the foundation of the Netherlands Antilles' educational system for almost a century. Even though most of them did not make an effort to learn Papiamentu here, several school books were designed by the Brothers and "Antillianized" to fit the needs of students. Their own works appeared in reading material with subjects such as religion, history and especially flora and fauna.

In 1995 there were nine Brothers left on Bonaire. All are gone now.

The statue north of the Catholic church in Playa was designed and built by a Bonairean. It is dedicated to the Fraters van Tilburg. The plaza is named after the Fraters as well.

Q) Who designed and built this statue?

Answer on page 19

BonQuiz appears regularly in *The Reporter*. It's prepared by Christie Dovale of Island Tours. To arrange a tour, contact her via her website:

IslandToursBonaire.com Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456
Email: christie-dovale@hotmail.com



Report Warns of Continuing Ecosystem Declines at Lac

A report on a conservation project at Lac Bay describes efforts to protect seagrass beds and reef corals from steeply increasing recreational use and calls for both immediate and long-term action to stop the declines. The re-

port recommends that Bonaire "enact policy, regulation and enforcement and devote adequate funds to manage Lac for the long term." In addition the report cites the need for immediate steps to reduce overuse of the area. The project was prompted in 2008 when two conservation organizations, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) and Progressive Environmental Solutions (ProES), shared mutual observations that seagrass beds at Lac's Sorobon peninsula

were undergoing a significantly rapid decline in size and density. The report, "Lac Buoy Placement Project Progress Report #1," is available online: http://download75.mediafire.com/scn9ljwvm1mg/ezm0gjwvnt/Report_Lac.pdf

For more information or to help, please call Mabel Nava of STCB at 717-2225 or Kris Kats of ProES at 786-1799 or visit www.bonaireturtles.org or www.proes.org. ■ Press release

Conch grass Cindy Lott photo



Strings Zinged-Four International Musicians Dazzle Bonaire

Incredible that a small island as Bonaire can be host to some of the most professional concert musicians in the world. Where normally we must travel to large cities and sit in huge concert halls, paying high, high prices, to hear the likes of this, here in Bonaire we can enjoy the music of these stars in a relatively small room, "Cacique Hall," at the Plaza. You're up close and it's almost like the musicians are playing just for you. We were told that the artists too, love that closeness and intimacy with their audience. "We can feel the audience," they say. And the low ticket price of NAf 35 is unbelievable.

Since the Classical Music Board of Bonaire acquired the grand piano it's been a year of memorable concerts, and there are more to come as the Board and its network reach out to entice more and more professional musicians to come to Bonaire.

This last concert, Four International Musicians, on Tuesday, April 27 had performances from the following:

Pianist Armand Simon was born in Amsterdam of Aruban parents. After studies in Holland he returned to Aruba help educate and guide young promising talents of the island. He's the artistic director of the Aruba Piano Festival. He's performed worldwide and is a dedicated chamber musician.



German Marciano

Cellist German Marciano from Venezuela studied in England and the US, was principal cello chair with the Simon Bolivar Symphonic orchestra and with the Madison Symphony Orchestra. As a founding member of the Rios Reyna Quartet he toured nationally and internationally. He obtained his Doctor in Music Arts in 2001 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Emile Ponson

The winner of the Youth Competition of the 4th International Aruba Piano Festival 2010 was 14-year-old **Emile Ponson** from Aruba who studies under Armand Simon. When he was 12, Emile won third place in the Festival.



Alissa Margulis

Alissa Margulis born in Freiburg of Russian parents is considered a "highly



Armand Simon



Performers Ponson, Margulis, Marciano and Simon



Deserving of a standing ovation

gifted young violinist," "one of the most promising of her generation" and "brilliant." She's a prizewinner in many competitions and has played in numerous festivals

The artists performed solo and when they came together for the Schubert Sonatina in A minor it was magic. But the best was saved for last with Argentine composer Astor Piazzolla's "Four Seasons of Buenos Aires." As one concert-goer said he had the recording of Yo Yo Ma's rendition but when he heard the cello, the piano and violin playing together this evening he was blown away. As were others in the audience. Piazzolla's music would be perfect for the movies: high drama and excitement, then sadness, quietness, then an explosion of passion. Thrilling.

Piazzolla is now considered one of the most important 20th century Argentine composers although his music that deviated from the traditional tango's formulas wasn't accepted at first. His works revolutionized the traditional tango into a new style termed *nuevo tango*, incorporating elements from jazz and classical music.

There is a very beautiful and user-friendly website where you can find all you every want about past, present and future programs of the **Classical Music Board Bonaire:**

WWW.cmbbonaire.com.

And you can purchase your tickets that way as well.



Cellist German Marciano is the brother of Bonaire's Latin jazz singer Andreina Marciano

Coming Soon:
Saturday, May 22 – Classical Music Board Bonaire presents: Henk van Twillert – Baritone Sax, and Tjako van Schie- Piano, 8 pm, Cacique Hall, Plaza.

Saturday, June 12 – Classical Music Board Bonaire presents: Livio Hermans – Piano and Tica Giel-Soprano. Works of Schumann, Schubert and others. 8 pm, Cacique hall, Plaza.

Tickets for the concerts are NAf 35; students NAf 10. Available on line at Classical Music Board Bonaire Website (WWW.cmbbonaire.com), at Books & Toys, Flamingo Book Store, Plaza Hotel. ■

Laura DeSalvo

Flotsam and Jetsam (Conti. from page 2)
Vincent and the Grenadines, Ralph Gonsalves, is calling for an **end to colonialism in the Caribbean**. It was not about being anti-European, Dr Gonsalves added, but about giving the Caribbean an opportunity to develop on an equal footing.

He described the region as having the greatest colonial presence in the world. In fact, of the 16 listed by the United Nations decolonization committee as Non-Self-Governing Territories, six are in the Caribbean: Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and the US Virgin Islands.

In the Caribbean region, Puerto Rico is a Commonwealth (associated state- see latest development preceding in this column) of the US, Martinique and Guadeloupe are part (Departments) of France and the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba have varying degrees of autonomy within the Dutch Kingdom.

The others governed from afar are Bermuda, Gibraltar, New Caledonia, Western Sahara, American Samoa, Guam, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

At a conference earlier this year, the UN committee noted that only one country - East Timor - had gained independence in the nine years so far of the UN decolonization decade.

by *BBC Caribbean*

► Caracas (Reuters) - **Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez opened a Twitter account** last Tuesday to combat opponents who have seized on the micro-blogging site to criticize his socialist government.

Known for his hours-long speeches, Chavez will now face the challenge of keeping his outpourings within the 140-character limit demanded by Twitter.

"Comrades, @chavezcandanga has been reserved, soon we will have messages there from our 'Comandante,'" said the head of Venezuela's communications watchdog, Diosdado Cabello, also a close aide of the president, via his own Twitter account. In some countries *candanga* translates as "devil," but in the Venezuelan lexicon it is used to mean someone who is strong-willed and rebellious or a troublemaker.

► On Wednesday, April 28, **Bonaire's second traffic circle opened at the intersection of Kaya International and Kaya Nikiboko South** ending several months of inconvenience while the roadwork was underway.

Commissioner Jopie Abraham, who was in the passenger seat of the cavalcade of cars and motorcycles first to go around the circle, and Commissioner for Infrastructure, Anthony Nicolaas, were on hand for the opening. The project was funded by SEI (*Sociaal Economisch Initiatief*) and constructed by BWM (*Bonaireaanse Wegenbouw Maatschappij*) at a cost of NAf 1.7 million.

► Following a lengthy information campaign **tougher environmental regulations for vehicle repair facilities and garages will be enforced on Bonaire**. In the coming weeks all the island's garages will get an initial inspection. This is a first step towards separate collection of hazardous waste such as waste oil, lubricants, batteries and other products that can seriously contaminate the environment. The rules are important for protecting the environment and contribute to a professional industry and satisfied customers, said SELIBON, the island's waste management company.

► Berghem, The Netherlands— The Animal Help Foundation (Stichting Dierenhulp)

which is especially active in Curaçao, Bonaire and Venezuela in animal and information campaigns, says the **Netherlands Antilles ranks number three on the list of countries (behind Greece and Spain) where a lot of animals suffer. It cites as a reason that 1,000 cats and dogs were euthanized in Bonaire.**

Not so, said a volunteer active in the Bonaire Animal Shelter. While there are certainly animals that suffer from maltreatment and neglect on the island they are minimized by the Shelter's euthanasia and free neutering program, not made worse. The approximately 1,000 animals "put to sleep" last year were protected from a life of suffering from disease and hunger. Many others were taken into the Shelter and many were subsequently adopted. There are simply more unwanted pets on Bonaire than can be adopted and the **Bonny Superdog free sterilization program gets at the problem at the roots.**

► **Do you feel comfortable speaking at a lectern? Or to a crowd of people? Do you have nervous habits when you speak, such as saying 'uh' 'um' 'ok' and "you know?"**

Have you ever been asked for your opinion about something, only to have your mind go blank? Have you given your opinion, but it was so disorganized that the point you were trying to make was lost?

Come to The **Toast Masters' Speech Craft Communication Training Series in English**. Develop impromptu speaking skills and gain self-confidence. The seminar starts Saturday, May 15. The four sessions cost NAf 35 and includes all training materials. For more info contact Sherwin Pourier sca-pourier@yahoo.com. Or Vicky Bissessar 786- 1592 or 717-4992.

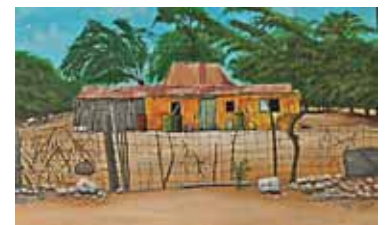


► **Are you a cyclist or are you looking for a gift for a cyclist?** Right now, the bike shop, **DeFreewieler** is loaded with a brand new collection of cyclist clothing – shirts, pants – shoes, helmets, gloves, sunglasses, novelty bells and water packs. You need not shop abroad these days as DeFreewieler carries nearly everything for bikes and the cyclist. Shop early as these things go fast. DeFreewieler is on Kaya Grandi #61, across from INPO, Budget Marine and Napa. Their website, www.BonaireFreewieler.com, will be updated soon so you will be able to read their monthly newsletter in English via a link.

► **KRIABON, Bonaire's agricultural cooperative, will be putting on a series of conferences** covering subjects such as organic agriculture, uses of bio-fertilizers and more. The conferences will be in Papiamentu (with translations in English and Dutch available) and conducted by Manuel S. Vargas, a specialist in organic agriculture. For more information call Kria-Bon at 717-4587; email: kriabon@gmail.com. See *Happenings* on page 14 for the schedule.

any reef. Attractive T-shirts are being sold non-profit to help spread the word. Available at the Carib Inn for only \$12.

► If you want Bonaire news between issues of *The Reporter*, "**Raw News**" is available as it happens on the bonairereporter.com website.



► **Correction:** In the last issue of *The Reporter* (April 23-May7) in Bonairean Voices, the painting in the photo with Nochi Coffie was incorrectly attributed to Nochi, but the **artist was Manuela Winklaar.**

► **Remember Mother's Day!**

► **Don't forget to tell our advertisers, "I heard about you in *The Reporter*."** It's their support that keeps *The Reporter* free. ■ G./L. D.

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25th Rincon Day Run

The 25th edition of the annual Comcabon 17.5 km. (10.9 miles) run/walk between Kralendijk Stadium and the Rose Inn in Rincon got a late start but the runners turned in fine performances. Earlier in the week the organizers decided to start the walkers at 5:30 am because of the expected sun and heat, but not all got the word and began at the previously scheduled 6 am. Twenty-five entered the Speed-walk and 19 ran. There were age categories for the winners and a relay race.

Many of the participants from the neighboring islands of Aruba and Curaçao were outfitted in smart matching running gear. The top female and male runners won \$200 each. Sponsors were MCB Bonaire N.V. (prime sponsor) and the Rose Inn, RSA Insurance, WEB N.V. and Karel's Beach Bar. ■ G.D.



First woman finisher and perennial winner Laurel Kjorlien was also first overall.



The joy of the run



Winner of the run, Laurel Kjorlien, and Matt Richards with the winner of the first Rincon Day run 25 years ago, Atwell Belioso (center).



Nazario Alberto, the North Salinja Road Runner, was first in his class despite a delayed start



The Parrot Watch team scored again: Support rider Jose Antonio Diaz, Matt Richards, the men's class winner, Rhian Evans, who won her class in the women's race, and coach Sam Williams



Several runners were encouraged by accompanying bike riders



More of Rincon Day on the next page →

RINCON DAY

This year's Rincon/Queen's Day celebration proved again that it's still the biggest party on the island. It's a time when the pride of the Rincoñeros in their culture is shown in their music, dance, food and party organization. Every year more and more visitors and participants are coming from the other islands and South America. Every car, truck, scooter and nearly anything else on wheels on the island was rented. Locals took in their relatives. And was it worth it?

Look at the crowds, the smiling faces, people greeting people, taking photos, marching in the parades, enjoying the music, the *krioyo* food-best on the island - the whole ambiance. It wasn't one big mass of partying people - there were individual cozy places to hang out and get out of the sun - like the Rose inn or the garden at Shon Nana at the Credit Lourdes or the Kos Bon So. You could join the crowds or you could relax for awhile out of the sun in one of these little spots and have a chance to visit, snack, drink and even dance.

And Rincon was clean, clean: the gardens, the roads, the houses. The weekend before more than 170 volunteers, from all over the island, worked like demons cleaning, cutting brush, carting it all away so by the time The Day came the town was glistening.

When the powers that be think about ways to increase tourism they should take a good long look at what the people of Rincon have been doing for the last 22 years. They offer a deep human experience of people meeting people. This is what people from other stress-loaded countries yearn for - a place to relax and just be a real person, accepted by the community that opens its doors to them.

Congratulations and thank you to the tireless members of the Rincon Day Committee. You should all be very proud of yourselves for putting on another people-to-people event, one that comes from your hearts! ■

Laura DeSalvo



KRIABON's Sidney Manuel offered plants and organic gardening



Tony Angila was there for the Panchito Club.



Angelique and Roland brought their children as did many others.



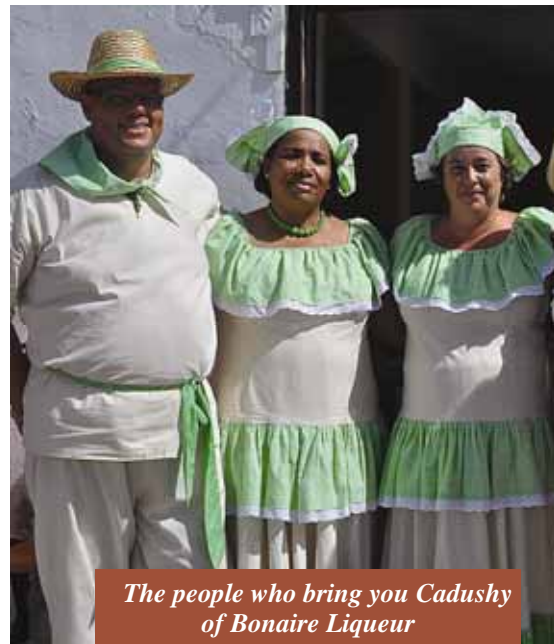
One of the several groups of dancers that walked the main street.



Rincon Day dreams



Ennia Insurance offered refresh- ing awa loemonchi



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Georgina brought her dog Diva for the day

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Earth Day Clean Ups



Rocargo Team ↑ TCB Team ↓ TBL Photos



Left to right: Miles Mercera, Angelo Domacassé, Helen Thodé, Brigitte de Bruin, Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes and Rolando Marin

On April 24, organized by Tene Boneiru Limpi and SELIBON N.V. in preparation for Rincon Day, **more than 170 volunteers worked, starting at 6 in the morning, to clean up Rincon.** The theme was: “*Ban hasi dia di Rincon mas dushi, sin sushi*” (“Make Rincon Day Cleaner, without Garbage”).

The first group to arrive was from the Customs Department with more than 20 persons. More people arrived from Rocargo, SELIBON, Cargill, TCB, as well as a group of scouts. Rincon residents joined in by cleaning around their homes and gardens. The Health Department was there to give out information about the dangers of the mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, and how to prevent it from living in the gardens.

Every corner was cleaned and invading branches chopped. There were more than **500 sacks of garbage collected**, the sacks donated by BOPEC. Other kind people donated loaders, trucks and bobcats.

Around noon the groups had a delicious BBQ given by the Pourier family and Rishi Martines to show their appreciation for all the volunteers.

Deputies Nolly Oleana and Marugia Janga also gave a hand to help.

Tene Boneiru Limpi and SELIBON N.V. can look back on a successful clean up action with volunteers from Playa and Rincon, all of whom joined in.

It was remarkable that not only in Rincon was there a cleaning action during the end of the week but lots of people around the island joined in and cleaned their own gardens and areas. ■ *Press release*

The Meteorite Effect At Boka Washikemba



Building the Barrier

On Saturday, April 24, 40 people volunteered to give time and effort to meet a common goal: to give Boka Washikemba some tender loving care.

As in past years, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) organized a beach clean up to celebrate Earth Day by preparing the beaches for the upcoming turtle nesting season.

We arrived at 7:30 am and to our surprise we saw a **huge indentation in the sand that looked like a meteorite had landed.** As we approached the area, we realized that the reason for the hole was of a completely different nature: it was not from space, but it was the result of people illegally removing sand.

The beach also had so much trash that we easily filled two big containers which SELIBON had placed there for us. When those two containers were full, rangers from STINAPA helped by providing their truck to bring the rest of the trash to the landfill.

We used huge logs and other big pieces of driftwood to make a barricade to stop vehicles from driving onto the beach.

This barricade will help protect our sea turtle nesting areas by preventing sand from being compacted by vehicles and to stop sand miners from taking the turtles' nesting grounds. It was a happy four-hour event where all participants brought

good energy and will to leave the beach as clean as possible.

STCB would like to thank staff from STINAPA for their good turnout and SELIBON for placing the containers and removing them after the clean up. And, last but not least, thanks to all the special people who participated in many different ways to make this clean-up a success.

Did you know that Boka Washikemba is the recipient of floating trash that travels with the currents of the Caribbean Sea and then ends up washed on our coastal areas? Before this trash reaches Bonaire's coastal zones, it poses a significant threat for many marine species such as sea turtles, birds and marine mammals. Most of the trash arriving on Bonaire's east coast appears to come from Venezuela and Trinidad & Tobago.

STCB is a non-governmental research and conservation organization that has been protecting sea turtles since 1991 to ensure the protection and recovery of sea turtle populations.

STCB receives major funding from WWF-Netherlands.

Information about STCB and sea turtle conservation on Bonaire can be found online at www.bonaireturtles.org.

■ *Mabel Nava*



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Cruise Ship Calls -Information provided by the TCB

Date	Day	Ship name	Time	PAX
Sunday	May 9, 2010	Maasdam	0800-1700	1258
Sunday	May 9, 2010	Noordam	0800-1700	1918
Tuesday	May 11, 2010	Ocean Dream	0800-1600	1422
Tuesday	May 18, 2010	Ocean Dream	0800-1600	1422

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

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Saturday, May 15 – Bonaire Animal Shelter Big Book and Flea Market, at the Shelter on Lagoen Road, 10 am to 5 pm. All proceeds go to the Bonny Superdog Sterilization Fund.

Friday, May 14 – Agricultural Conference, Rincon, sponsored by Kria-Bon. More information call 717-4587; email: kriabon@gmail.com

Saturday, May 15 - Agricultural Conference, Tera Kora, sponsored by Kria-Bon. More information call 717-4587; email: kriabon@gmail.com

Saturday, May 15 - Toast Masters Bonaire presents - Speech Craft – The Communication Series - 4 sessions, in English, NAf 35 (includes training materials). Contact Sherwin Pourier sca-pourier@yahoo.com/Vicky Bissessar [786 1592/717 4992](tel:78615927174992). See page 10 for details.

Tuesday, May 18 - Agricultural Conference, Amboina, sponsored by Kria-Bon. More information call 717-4587; email: kriabon@gmail.com

Wednesday, May 19 - Agricultural Conference, Nort di Salina, sponsored by Kria-Bon. More information call 717-4587; email: kriabon@gmail.com

Wednesday, May 19– Hash House Harriers Meeting (running & walking club), St. Bernardus church, Kaya Korona/Kaya Nikiboko North, 5:30pm. For more info email: BonFlamingoH3@gmail.com

Saturday, May 22 – Classical Music Board Bonaire presents: Henk van Twillert – Baritone Sax, and Tjako van Schie- Piano, 8 pm, Cacique Hall, Plaza. Tickets: NAf 35; students NAf 10. Available on line at Classical Music Board Bonaire Website (www.cmbbonaire.com), at Books & Toys, Flamingo Book Store, Plaza Hotel

May 27-30 - Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival 2010.

June 1– Bonaire Dive into Summer. Until September 30.

June 5– Panchito Free Kids' Movie– At Voyager Events, on the traffic circle to the airport. Showing: Planet 51 6:30-9pm. **Completely Free**

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.infobonaire.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 Crisita 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 Por'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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Burgers II

Bonaire's Second Annual Hamburger Cook Off



Judges Ken Babin, Hon. Lt. Governor Glenn Thodé, Pierro Cicilia (last year's winner) and M. "Turtle" Celestijn (last year's runner-up) assess the Mega Burger.

Bonaire's best burger chefs competed for honor and prizes at the second annual Labor Day burger competition at Roomer's Resort last Saturday. As usual, on the day of competition the sun was shining, the BBQ was hot, and the atmosphere was vibrant. The "Ozone Trio" chanted customized songs for each contestant. Competition was relaxed and all in fun as there is a great sense of camaraderie amongst the participants and audience.

The participants (by order of presentation to judges):

1. Curtley Manuela
2. Karen Zavon, with husband Bruce Zavon on the grill
3. Marvin Abdul
4. Yandrick Cicilia

The judging panel of four evaluated the burgers based on Appearance, Taste, Doneness (properly cooked), Use of Ingredients, and Originality/Inventiveness. Upon presenting their burger to the judging panel, each contestant was asked to describe the inspiration for their burger.

After much consultation the winners were:

1st place - Marvin Abdul, "Mega Burger"

2nd place - Karen Zavon, "Dell'Amore Pura Burger."

3rd place - Yandrick Cicilia, "Tropical Burger"

4th place - Curtley Manuela, "Den



Curtley Manuela prepping his burger

We're looking forward to next year. Will the Iguana Burger reappear? We're hoping. ■ G.D.

Bonaire Eyesores

Sore Spots in Bonaire's Environmental Image ...
As viewed by practicing environmentalist Hans Voerman



ILLEGAL GARBAGE DUMPS

If you travel far enough along Kaya Nikiboko the paved road becomes a dirt road and within 150 feet (50 meters) you spot the first illegal dump. Garbage bags, beer bottles, clothing, garden waste and more. A little further along there is a mountain of garbage followed by another. Individuals and companies are dumping their waste in the *mondi* (countryside) to escape the dumping charge at the Landfill or perhaps for other reasons.

Hans Voerman from Outdoor Bonaire passes this way to and from his *kunuku* (farm). Often he's accompanied by tourists. "It's not good publicity for Bonaire and it's very bad for the environment. Bonaire is promoted for its beautiful nature, but nature is now spoiled in many places." According to Voerman the Environmental Police are doing their best to prevent dumping, but they have caught only two. Catching the dumper in the act is difficult. "There is a fine for illegal dumping of waste, but it must be clear who the culprit is." Voerman continues to report the waste piles he encounters in the *mondi* to the Environmental Police, but it seems a hopeless case. "They clean it up, but shortly after there is a new mountain of garbage," said Voerman, as he replaces his sign to discourage illegal dumping: "Stop, No Tira Aki Sushi." But the "Stop, Don't Throw Trash Here" sign is usually found pulled out of the ground and lying upside down in the dirt.

GOATS AND DIABASS

Another problem that Voerman notes daily is illegal excavation of soil, locally called *diabass*. Along the very same Nikiboko North road you see huge holes in the ground. "Diabass is excavated from here almost every day. The holes created are then used to dump waste. But the problem is much larger because of the erosion. This causes even more blowing dust, dirt and sand. We know from research by the Foundation KibraHacha that there is big dust problem on Bonaire. It can cause health problems."

It's not only the excavations that cause erosion. So do the many free-ranging goats. They graze the landscape bald and young plants can't grow. This is a well-known problem. STINAPA has already identified it as did Foundation KibraHacha. In a nutshell, goats are one of the reasons for the limited vegetation on the island.

Voerman has a copy of an act from 1918, but still in force, stating that cattle are not allowed to graze on public lands.

"*Kunukeros* (farmers) should be offered an alternative. The animals are their livelihood. But the goats should have to graze in a fenced-in area. The *kunukeros* will have more expense but should step up to their responsibility," says Voerman. Even the mangroves have suffered from overgrazing. The mangroves are in a national park and protected by the Ramsar Treaty.

To make his point about how overgrazing affects the island the environmentalist shows me a photo of his *kunuku* when there were goats. It was bald. In the seven years since a fence was put around it has become green and overgrown. It even includes an example of a Wayaká (*Guaiacum officinale- pokhoutboom*), the indigenous "tree of life" once commonplace on Bonaire. ■ Marieke Serruys /G.D./L.D. Photo by Marieke

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KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

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

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
May							
Fri 07		02:25 / 0.22 ft	07:09 / 0.51 ft	14:52 / 0.14 ft	21:08 / 0.52 ft	06:13	18:50
Sat 08		03:37 / 0.19 ft	07:50 / 0.40 ft	15:08 / 0.09 ft	21:35 / 0.59 ft	06:13	18:51
Sun 09		04:54 / 0.15 ft	08:37 / 0.28 ft	15:20 / 0.04 ft	22:03 / 0.66 ft	06:13	18:51
Mon 10		06:15 / 0.07 ft	09:38 / 0.17 ft	15:25 / 0.00 ft	22:33 / 0.73 ft	06:12	18:51
Tue 11		07:33 / 0.02 ft	11:09 / 0.07 ft	15:17 / 0.03 ft	23:06 / 0.81 ft	06:12	18:51
Wed 12		08:40 / 0.11 ft	23:45 / 0.87 ft			06:12	18:51
Thu 13		09:33 / 0.20 ft	New Moon			06:12	18:52
Fri 14	00:27 / 0.93 ft	10:16 / 0.27 ft				06:11	18:52
Sat 15	01:14 / 0.97 ft	10:54 / 0.32 ft				06:11	18:52
Sun 16	02:02 / 1.00 ft	11:29 / 0.36 ft				06:11	18:52
Mon 17	02:52 / 0.99 ft	12:00 / 0.38 ft	19:01 / 0.18 ft	20:00 / 0.18 ft		06:11	18:53
Tue 18	03:43 / 0.96 ft	12:30 / 0.38 ft	18:39 / 0.27 ft	22:20 / 0.21 ft		06:11	18:53
Wed 19	04:34 / 0.89 ft	13:00 / 0.37 ft	19:02 / 0.39 ft	23:57 / 0.21 ft		06:10	18:53
Thu 20	05:25 / 0.78 ft	13:28 / 0.34 ft	19:34 / 0.54 ft	First Quarter Moon		06:10	18:54
Fri 21		01:27 / 0.18 ft	06:18 / 0.64 ft	13:57 / 0.31 ft	20:11 / 0.69 ft	06:10	18:54

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New Horizons



We wish every success to Fleurtje Veldkamp and her daughter, Madelif Thode, as they prepare to leave for a brave new life in Holland. Fleurtje, one of the top graduates in her SGB class, will pursue further studies in the social welfare field. For the past few years she's worked for the Stichting Project and FKPD. Fleurtje's been on Bonaire for 11 years. While in school she provided *The Reporter* with insights and photos of high school goings-on and was a part of *The Reporter* family. ■ G.D.

Panchito Kid's Corner

Sharpen your Papiamentu and English language skills with this puzzle from the creator of Bonaire's top kids' website, Panchito-bonaire.com. Tony Angila, "Tio Tony."

(Story in *The Reporter* of 22 January 2010)



www.panchitobonaire.com

Panchito Kid's Corner (Papiamentu)

www.panchitobonaire.com
info@bonairereporter.com



MEMORIA	BABI	LECHI	FEN	BIENTU	PECHI	KALENDER
BOTO	KURA	YERBA	KACHO	HEMBER	TRABOU	SLAN
ALBUM	BARBI	HUNGA	AWA	KORIENTE	AUTO	

Panchito Kid's Corner (English)

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MEMORY	MILK	BABY	FAN	WIND	HAT
CALENDAR	BOAT	YARD	GRASS	DOG	BUCKET
WORK	HOSE	ALBUM	BARBIE	TOYS	WATER
ELECTRICITY	PIANO				

Solutions on page 19

Body Talk

YOU CAN ONLY MANAGE WHAT YOU CAN MEASURE!

Most of us are familiar with various measurements that can be used to "control" the many aspects of our health. The more familiar methods are a blood pressure cuff for those with high blood pressure, a glucose monitor for diabetics, a thermometer for fever or when things really get tough, a comprehensive blood test.

How many of us know how to measure the amount of water we need to drink, or are we getting enough, or too much Vitamin C? And what about calcium? Too much or not enough?

Why is it so difficult for most of us to know where exactly we are in terms of our health and all those multi-vitamins we are taking, or the effect of not drinking enough water has on our bodies?

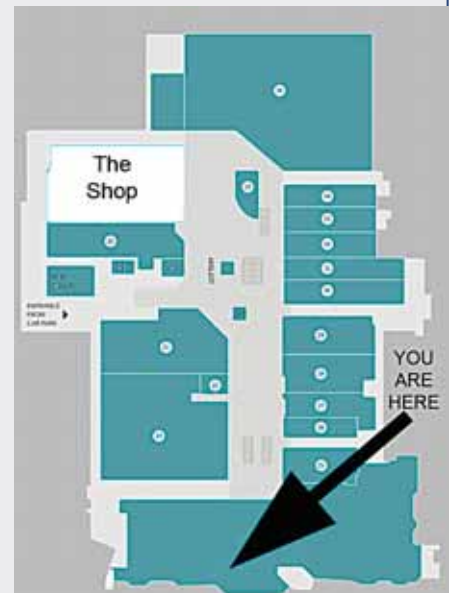
Picture yourself in a large (and unfamiliar to you) shopping centre looking for a specific shop. Now you could spend many hours (which could also be fun!) going from one level to the next, looking for your shop, or you could go directly to the interactive directory, punch in the shop you are looking for, and bingo! Being an intelligent piece of equipment, it will also tell you exactly where you are! The rest is easy.

Does this not remind you a bit what we do with our health in general? We're not really sure of the state of our health. Some of us are on medications, over-the-counter drugs, and we also take vitamin and mineral supplements because we have been told we should.

Did you know that the wrong nutritional supplement taken at the wrong time could wreak havoc with internal biochemistry? Nutritional supplements should be point specific and NOT over-the-counter "guesswork."

Now how many of us have had a blood test done, just to be told that there is not really anything wrong, but we continue feeling 'out of sorts'? Unfortunately, a blood test alone is not the answer. There are so many other factors like saliva, urine and breathing rate that add information to the big picture.

Could you imagine a non-invasive procedure that will be able to tell you exactly what is happening with internal body chemistry? Whether you have a problem processing carbohydrates and fats which would affect your energy



production? A procedure that could give you an advanced warning of sugar handling issues that could be a precursor to diabetes. Have you ever wondered why it is so difficult to lose weight and to keep it off?

Each individual has mechanisms within their body that will uniquely compensate for any imbalances present. These imbalances could be of a biological, electrical or chemical nature and with Biological Terrain Assessment the intricate body chemistry of an individual can be evaluated and the correct course of action taken. If you are trying to manage your health without having done the necessary measurements, you will always be in the dark!

P.S. To calculate how much water you should drink – take your weight (metric) and divide by 25.8. This will give you the minimum amount of water (liters) you should be drinking per day, bearing in mind any activities and weather conditions. ■ *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



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Earth Day Nature Walk



To celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, STINAPA and Maria Koeks' Sòldachi Tours organized a walk in the Dos Pos area of Rincon on Sunday, April 25. Everyone was invited. Maria Koeks guided the group. More than 50 persons participated. Everyone was so happy to see how beautiful the nature was – green, green – after the recent rains. There were very beautiful views of the mountains and Gotomeer.

After the walk the group visited Rudy Balentin's kunuku, "Ticurius Hill," where STINAPA Director Elsmarie Beukenboom thanked everyone and Soldachi Tours. She explained that this year is celebrated as the year of biodiversity and what the significance is for Bonaire and the effect of climate change on our future. She stressed the urgency for people to begin producing their own food, even in their small gardens to lessen our dependency on imported products.

If you are interested in a tour of nature contact Maria Koeks at Sòldachi Tours at 796-7870. Her tours are always memorable. ■ Press release/ L.D.

Picture Yourself With The Reporter... In Haiti

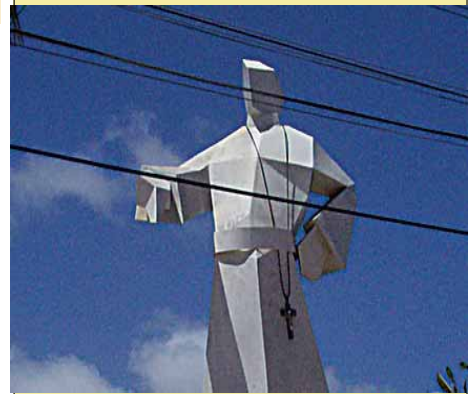


Andrew MacDonald, freelance photographer; and regular Bonaire visitor, in front of the collapsed Presidential Palace in Haiti on Friday, February 19, 2010, following the devastating earthquake. He was doing a shoot for the NGO "SOS Children's Villages Emergency Programs." And he remembered to bring along a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter*.

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.

BonQuiz Answer

Bon Quiz (from page 8)



Q) Who designed and built this statue?

A) Frans Booi

Sudoku Solution

Puzzle on page 7

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



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Panchito Kid's Corner

Puzzle Solutions

Puzzle on page 18

Panchito Kid's Corner (Papiamentu)

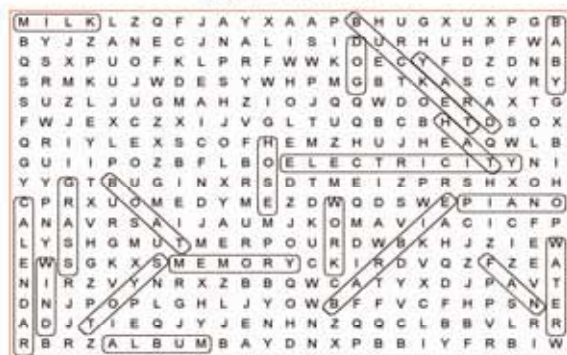
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Panchito Kid's Corner (English)

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Pet of the Week

“Xante” (pronounced “Santi”) just loves being held, and here she is with Bonaire Animal Shelter Manager Marlis. Xante looks like a real scouring pad on legs and she gives true meaning to the term, “wire haired.” But inside her nature is loving and friendly. Playing with the Shelter staff and with the other dogs is top on her list. She’s about seven months old and will be a medium size dog. She was dropped off at the cage, the *Kouchi di Bestia*, outside the Shelter so her history isn’t known. What is known is that this is a very special dog that everyone just loves. She deserves to go to the most loving home. Xante has been examined by the vet, has had her tests and shots and is ready to go. The dog adoption fee of NAf105 includes all that plus sterilization. You may see her at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9-1 and 3 to 5. Tel. 717-4989.



Xante and Shelter Manager, Marlis

When you stop in at the Shelter pet store you’ll most likely be greeted (if she’s not resting) by “Princess,” who oversees the activity in the shop. Princess, named because she is from the “House of Orange,” is one of the Shelter resident cats and is not up for adoption. She like, many of the other “residents, has a job to do in the shop and is part of the regular staff. The shop, by the way, has all sorts of dog and cat paraphernalia like leashes, dishes, scarves, toys and even art pieces. It’s open during the Shelter opening hours.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: The Shelter will have a **Big Book and Flea Market** at the Shelter on Lagoen Road, Saturday, May 15, 10 am to 5 pm. All the proceeds go to the **Bonny Superdog Sterilization Fund.** ■

Story & photos by Laura DeSalvo

Kunuku Youngsters

In March the Kibrahacha Foundation started a project to give youngsters horticultural work experience at the Youth Kunuku Bonaire. Every week the youngsters visit a real *kunuku* (farm).

The first group of youngsters together with Senaida

Jong Janga visited Edshel Martha’s fruit tree nursery. It has more than 300 young trees planted as well as cuttings. The fruit trees are being grown to provide fruit for Bonaire’s endangered parrot, the Lora.

Last November these trees were planted at two “food hot spots” together with Salba Nos Lora Fundashon. One problem for Loras is that there are too few trees that provide them food in nature, especially in the dry season. So the Loras become a nuisance by eating the fruit in people’s gardens. These trees in the hot spots will reduce that problem.

The trees preferred by the Lora include: *Kalbas, Wayacá, Palu di lora, Oliba, Palu Sia, and Rhambeshi Watakel.*

Other trees whose fruit mature later were also planted by the youngsters. Examples are: *Head apel, Shimaruku, Hoba, Kenepa, Mango, Guyaba, Tamarijn, Papaya and Medlar.*

Other Bonairean trees will be grown like *Kibrahacha, Watapana, Taki* and Sabal



Youngsters at work

palms. The Sabal palms often found in the Belnem area are endemic to Bonaire. Endemic means that they only occur on Bonaire.

The leaders took the youngsters through the *mondi* in search of the trees. Ten small palm seedlings were dug up to grow in our nursery. Usually the goats eat the young seedlings of trees.

Next the group will visit a *kunuku* breeding dairy goats, a vegetable farm and petting zoo. The young people receive a tour, but get their hands dirty too.

The experience at the Youth Project is sponsored by **Kunuku AMFO, Cooperating and Funds Bonairean** companies: Lovers Ice Cream, Green Label garden center and Kooyjman. ■

Story & photo by
Jan Jaap van Almenkerk

For more information see the blog: <http://jongeren-op-de-kunuku.blogspot.com>.

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Bumps Along The Road To Holland?



Peace At Last

When Commissioner Jopie Abraham said he had signed the administrative agreement with the Netherlands on April 22, to become a "public body" within the Dutch government he did so "with mixed feelings."

The agreement confirms the terms under which Bonaire will integrate with Holland on October 10th, 2010. The Dutch government will be taking over the tasks that the Antillean government in Curaçao did formerly, plus others. Saba and St. Eustatius had signed a similar agreement in 2009.

The agreement also means continuation of Bonaire's debt repayment by the Netherlands, renovation of the airport runway, renovation of the hospital and the school buildings, an expansion of the police station and jail. The cost for these is estimated at NAf 26.4 million for the remainder of the year.

In addition, Bonaire will receive an additional annual payment for maintenance of government buildings and infrastructure (airport, seaport and roads).

The agreement consisted of 15 points which included a restricted expansion of the island's population in order to preserve culture, its own character, landscape and nature. To that end, Bonaire and the Netherlands will work together on managing the expansion of the population.

"At this moment, Bonaire cannot perform the tasks necessary for law enforcement, judicial proceedings, education, and customs for itself. However, Bonaire will gradually acquire more responsibilities," Abraham explained during the press conference held after the signing.

BES-Commissioner Henk Kamp, who signed the agreement on behalf of the Netherlands, said it was "finalizing a period of uncertainty," and emphasized that nothing must be altered regarding Bonaire's own identity.

Included in the agreement was the affirmation that the population of Bonaire has the right to self-determination.

Meanwhile in The Netherlands...

Some members in the Dutch Second Chamber are worried that Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba will be insufficiently protected against an influx of foreigners after they become part of the Netherlands later this year as so-called public entities. The Labor Party (PvdA) and Socialist Party (SP) expressed their concerns in their written response to the Admittance and Expulsion for the BES islands law proposal. The Second Chamber's Permanent Antillean Committee still has to handle the law proposal after which it will be presented at the

plenary handling. No dates have been set yet for this. The Second Chamber has already approved the first batch of BES laws in January this year. The First Chamber will debate the first batch on May 11.

Still to Come

No problems are expected to arise during the handling of the first package of legislation. The three largest parties in the Senate - Christian Democrat CDA, liberal democratic VVD, and Labor PvdA - indicated in their written reaction to the legislative package that they would support the seven proposed laws which were approved by the Second Chamber in January.

The BES law package includes the rules concerning the public entities Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba (WolBES), an amendment to the Electoral Law in connection with the new constitutional status of the BES islands, the implementation law IBES, regulations regarding the financial function of the BES islands (FinBES), the adaptation law ABES, the law to protect the personal data of citizens, and the approval/cancellation of treaties for the BES islands.

The First Chamber is aiming to handle the Kingdom Consensus Laws in a plenary meeting on July 6. After it has approved those Laws, the Parliaments of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba have to approve the changes to the Kingdom Charter by means of a federal ordinance. No second round will be necessary if this happens with a two-thirds majority. If there is a simple majority, there will have to be a second voting within a month.

The Second Chamber will have final say on the Kingdom Consensus Law to change the Charter shortly before the final Round Table Conference (RTC) in The Hague on September 9. If it all happens like clockwork the new Dutch Kingdom should go into effect as scheduled on October 10, 2010.

Be Careful

VNG Magazine* Editor-in-Chief Simon Kooistra and Editor Leo Mudde, on their first visit to the BES islands, said they had learned that the Dutch Government and its representatives should be very careful of the Caribbean island identities of Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire. The common people's fundamental attitude towards the coming changes seems to be positive, but islanders are also concerned that "the Dutchmen will take over too many things without consulting them."

Many are also worried that Bonaire will assume the position Curaçao currently has in the Netherlands Antilles, with all the authority and money going to that island, especially as it is the largest of the three and the majority of the Dutch officials will be stationed there, as the RSC under Henk Kamp already is. They want VNG Magazine to build a bridge between Holland and the BES islands when these islands assume their status of public overseas entities on October 10, 2010.

*VNG Magazine is the official Dutch-language biweekly publication of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG). Bonaire will soon be one.

Upcoming Dutch Elections

Since Bonaire will be getting affected by Dutch national politics as the 10/10/10 integration date approaches it is interesting to follow the political situation in the Netherlands closer.

Another Balkenende-led coalition government seems unlikely. Based on newspaper accounts and individual conversations the Dutch Labor PvdA party leader, Job Cohen, said he was keen to form a progressive coalition government, possibly with a leftist party, as the economy and budget cuts loomed as issues in the approach to the June 9 election.

Cohen replaced former finance minister Wouter Bos as party leader.

We want to have a coalition as progressive as possible," Cohen told Reuters at the PvdA party congress. Bos had never expressed support for a left-wing coalition. Cohen also said green-left GroenLinks would be a welcome partner if it was needed to form a majority coalition after the election.

No party holds a majority in the 150-seat Dutch Parliament. A poll by Synovate Political Barometer on Friday predicted PvdA and Christian Democrat (CDA) would win 30 seats each. PvdA won 33 seats and CDA 41 seats in the last election.

The conservative VVD party was tipped to win 27 seats, improving in electoral support as it took seats away from the anti-immigration Freedom Party PVV of Geert

Wilders.

Any coalition government is likely to need at least four parties. One considered possible is a combination of PvdA, VVD, centre-left D66 and GroenLinks.




Job Cohen, the next Dutch PM?

Cohen, who as Amsterdam mayor helped smooth tensions after the 2004 murder of anti-immigrant filmmaker Theo Van Gogh by an Islamic extremist, takes a no-nonsense stance on integration, saying problems will simply have to be dealt with. He plays up the importance of issues such as climate change and the aging population, and the fact that the next government will have to cut the budget deficit, expected to peak at 6.3% of Gross Domestic Product this year.




"The challenge is more about the economy, which is more important at the moment than integration," Cohen said.


Most Dutch parties support budget cuts of 30 billion euros, but via different means. The next government is likely to make a series of compromise choices, depending on the coalition partners. ■ G.D.



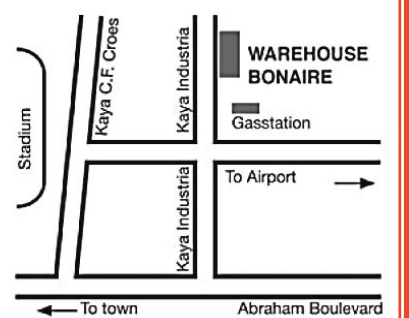
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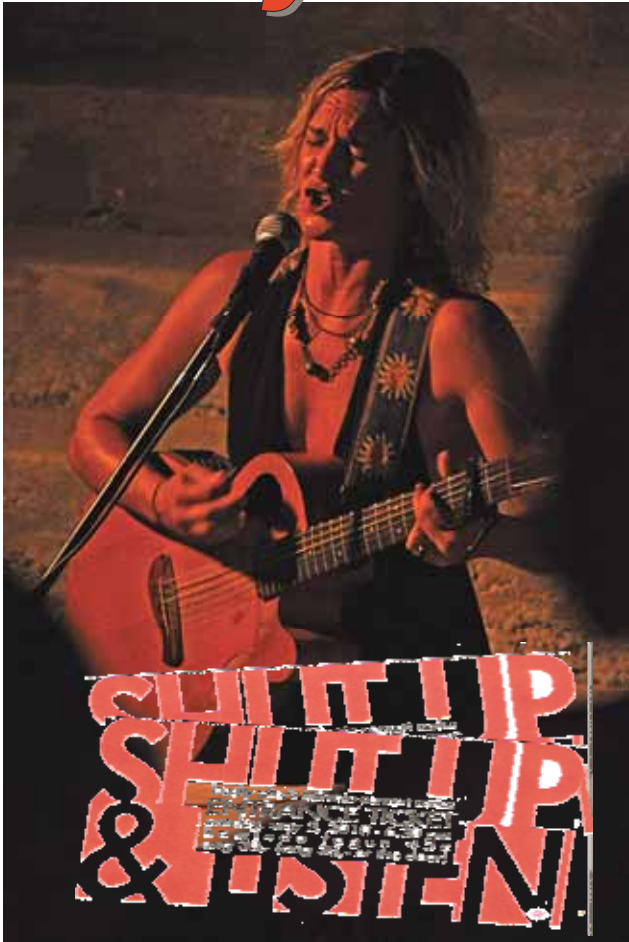


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Becky Rules Electric Cars Now On Bonaire



**SHUT UP
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Singer Becky Alter, accompanied by saxophonist Eduard de Vries, wowed the crowd of about 80 persons at Bonaire's first "Shut Up and Listen" concert last Sunday night. They performed from one of the most unusual venues ever for a Bonaire performance –the bottom of a swimming pool. The concert site was provided by the owners of a posh new home that was just short of completion. So the pool was (almost) empty and provided interesting auditory and visual reflections.

Watch for more concerts from unusual locations in the near future. ■ G.D.



Bonaire Boating photo

Bonaire Boating and AB Car rental introduced two models of all-electric cars on Bonaire for Earth Day 2010. The cars can reach 80 km per hour with a range of about 50/70 km. Plug in to charge (refuel) overnight. "As soon Bonaire switches to wind power there really will be clean driving," says eco-entrepreneur Gerard van Erp, director of Bonaire Boating Company. ■ Press release/ G.D.

Open House Success



The Richter Art Gallery's first "Open House" on Saturday, April 24, was a great success with visitors staying long beyond the scheduled closing time. The Gallery, located in Belnem, is owned and operated by local Bonaire artists, Linda Richter and Jake Richter, and is located on the second floor of a specially constructed extension built onto their home.

It displays works by Jake, Linda and Krystyana Richter. The Gallery is on Kaya R. Statius van Eps 17 (the road to Sorobon). More information about the Richter Art Gallery can also be found at <http://www.RichterArt.com>, phone +599-717-4112. ■

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*to find it... just look up

The Moon Pays a Visit to the Two Brightest Planets, and....

Start Your Mars Race to Regulus Watch Now

On May 9th and 10th the Moon pays a visit to the second brightest planet, Jupiter, and on the 15th and 16th pays a visit to the brightest planet Venus. Plus you can watch Mars race toward Leo the Lion's brightest star all month long. This Sunday morning, May 9th, an hour before sunrise, face east in the Sky Park where your breath will be taken away by an exquisite pairing of a 25-day-old waning crescent Moon and the largest planet, 88,000-mile-wide Jupiter. And believe me you'll be most impressed by this pairing. But if you miss it, the following morning, Monday May 10th, an even skinnier crescent Moon will be parked just off to the left of Jupiter in a not-quite-as-close-but-still-exquisite pairing. Don't miss either of these pairings please: Sunday May 9th and Monday May 10th.

But there's more because if you look about half way up the western sky you'll see a rouge-gold object which is tiny, 4,000-mile-wide Mars. It is just down and to the right of the sickle shaped pattern of stars which makes up the front of Leo the Lion, with Leo's brightest star, Regulus, marking Leo's heart. Now on the 15th and 16th Mars will be about 10 and 1/2 degrees away from Regulus. And since a full Moon is 1/2 a degree, that means we could fit 21 full Moons between them. But now here is where the fun comes in. Because if you go out and look up at Mars and Regulus night after night all throughout May, you'll be able to watch Mars move closer and closer towards Regulus. By the end of the month it will be only 3 and 1/4 degrees away from Regulus which means that only 6 1/2 full Moons would fit between them.

There is something more to Regulus than meets the eye. In 2005 astronomers came to some interesting conclusions about this star. Certainly one of the most bizarre was that Regulus was not round in shape, but oblate and elongated. Its equatorial diameter was 4.15 times that of the Sun while its polar diameter was 3.15 times greater. If you were to spin Regulus one complete turn in about 16 hours this is the shape that you would get. Our Sun takes about 26 days to do so. Compared to our Sun, Regulus is a literal speed demon. What would such a high rotation rate translate into as a velocity? About 315 kilometers per second, or 160 times faster than the Sun.

Such rapid spinning also has other implications for Regulus. Our own spherically-shaped Sun has a surface temperature of almost 6,000°K. With Leo's brightest star spinning so fast its polar and equatorial surface temperatures differ by 5,100°K; 15,400°K at the poles and 10,300°K at the equator. That's why the north and south poles of Regulus appear to be white (i.e. hotter) and the equatorial regions bluish (i.e. cooler) in the diagram comparing it to our Sun. We now also know that Regulus is not as old as we thought as once the effects of the star's rapid rotation were subtracted away, it was found to be 50 million years old, less than 1% the age of the Sun. This makes Regulus a "youngster." June 5th and 6th Mars and Regulus will have a super close meeting and will be less than one degree apart which means that we could barely fit one full Moon between them which is super close astronomically speaking. ■

Jack Horkheimer



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
For May 2010

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your ideas may be good, but they aren't necessarily right for everyone. Be sure to take time for old friends or relatives you don't get to see that often. If you've taken on a lot of work, be sure to leave some time for yourself and family. Get involved in sports events that will benefit your physical appearance. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Changes in your home will be positive. If you're preoccupied, be careful while operating a vehicle or any kind of equipment or machinery. You may have the day off but your thoughts will be on your work and your cash situation. Major moves will be emotional and not necessarily to your benefit. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Talk to an older family member you have helped in the past. You can ask for favors and get sound advice from close friends or relatives. You should want to feel good about yourself and your goals. Partnerships with creative people could lead to financial gains. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Put some energy into getting back into shape. Listen to reason. Take part in stimulating debates that will allow you to show off your intelligence. Don't expect the whole family to be overjoyed. Don't back down but don't ignite the situation. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You should catch up on correspondence. You may be tired of working for someone else. Don't overspend on items for your home. Your hypnotic eyes will capture the hearts of those who interest you.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You can make gains if you look at long-term investments. You can make new connections through friends or relatives. Avoid purchasing expensive items. You will be accident prone if you aren't careful this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Double check your work and be sure that your boss is in a good mood before you do your presentation. Your self esteem will come back if you take part in organizational functions that allow you to be in the lime light. You haven't been watching your spending habits and you may have been neglecting your duties. Digestive disorders will be a result of family squabbles. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Try to join groups of interest such as ballroom dance classes or perhaps an internet organization. Be discreet about your personal life or whereabouts. Be mysterious. Expect temper tantrums on the home front if you haven't been letting someone have their way. Relatives may be less than easy to deal with. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Things at home may be somewhat rocky. Don't torment yourself. Disharmony in the home will be extremely stressful. You may find that lectures or travel will be highly successful. You need time to think things through. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Get busy making those changes to your home. You're best not to get involved in joint financial ventures. Put all your energy into moneymaking ventures. Focus on what's important rather than spreading yourself too thin and accomplishing little. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Your emotional state could leave you vulnerable and confused. Residential moves are evident. Do your own research and be prepared. You will get great satisfaction from your efforts.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) It's time you let your true feelings out. You can make headway if you share your intentions with someone you care about. You will have some wonderful ideas that should bring you extra money. Empty promises could be likely where work is concerned. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

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Bonaire Reporter- May 7-21, 2010

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World Health & Tai Chi Qigong Day

It was a fascinating morning devoted to health and well being in a delightful setting, Bonaire Basic's antique house with its rooms surrounding a garden.

On Saturday, April 24, Bonaire celebrated **World Health Day and World Tai Chi Qigong Day**. About 100 people were there to enjoy the friendly, laid back ambiance, and learn and ask questions of the health professionals and to watch and take part in demonstrations of Tai Chi and Qigong.

Kindred souls, Commissioner for Health, Marugia Janga, and BonKarate

Sensei and counselor to the Island Government, Peter Silberie, opened the event along with Ron Sewell of Diamond Waters Tai Chi School, who was one of the primary organizers of the event.

Throughout the morning there were talks and demonstrations in the different rooms – mostly in English. In between classes people chatted informally together in the garden and savored the fresh fruit and lime water.

Tai Chi and Qigong instructor **Ted Perian** who has two Tai Chi and Qigong schools in New Jersey was there and gave a **Qigong class**. Ted lives in the US but is a part time resident in his house in Amboina

Mieke Le Noble spoke on **Nutrition** and **Bo Bodiffee** explained about **Aloe for Health**.

In another room of the house **John Le Noble** talked about **Body Regeneration**. He got a lot of questions from his audience and later gave a demonstration.

Björn van der Ree, who runs a successful **Body Stress Release** business in Curaçao, told us about his skills in finding points of tension within our bodies and how he releases them for us to overcome problems. He used his young daughter to demonstrate.

Annemiek LeNoble spoke about **Non-Violent Communication**.

Professional full time well qualified body therapist, **Judith Pestana of Beverly Bio Aesthetics**, spoke about **Skin Care** and



Organizer Ron Sewell and his Tai Chi students



Mary Timmermans demonstrates a Bio-resonance procedure on a volunteer.



John LeNoble makes a point about Body Regeneration



Bo Bodiffee (right) explains her Aloe products to Eveline de Bruyn (left)

gave a demonstration of removing unwanted spots on several volunteers.

Myriam v.d Grient gave demonstrations about **Chi Neng Qigang Qigong** and explained about "**Brain Gym**," a technique that shows how learning challenges may be overcome by finding the right movements, the use of which will create new pathways in the brain. Last, but not least, **Mary Timmermans** talked about **Acupuncture and Bio-Resonance** and gave a lucky member of the audience a treatment.

It was an event to remember. The ambiance was warm and open and people felt totally comfortable and free to ask questions and speak with the health care professionals. Ron Sewell reports that the presenters were very pleased with the result and want to do it again next year. Please do! We'll all be waiting.

For more information contact Ron Sewell at 717- 2458 or email ron.sewell@diamond-waters.com. ■

Story & photos by Laura DeSalvo; top right photo by Scuba Vision



Björn van der Ree deals with points of tension in our bodies.



Judith Pestana demonstrates how she can remove an unwanted skin spot.



Annemiek LeNoble says why we should employ compassionate communication.