

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** Nov. 19-Dec. 3, 2010, Year 17, Issue 22  
**The REPORTER**  
*Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly*

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**They're Back!**  
**Cruise Ship Season Starts**  
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The agreements between The Netherlands and Bonaire to begin six different projects were signed last week under the Social and Economic Initiative (SEI). These are in addition to SEI projects already underway like the renovation of the runway, other infrastructure issues at the airport and major investments in education. The SEI projects are:

- Upgrading the Kaya Amsterdam Sports Center
  - Upgrading the Stadium di Playa Rincon
  - Bonaire Parsonage Maintenance
  - Upgrading the Gymnasium, San Luis Beltran School
  - Public Transportation Feasibility Study and Research
  - Performance Improvements for the Investment Climate.
- Deputy Tjin Asjoe, who signed for Bonaire, hopes that these investment funds boost the economy and social infrastructure of the island and will encourage the private sector to make investments in Bonaire's economy.

►WILLEMSTAD The Prosecutor's Office in Willemstad, Curaçao, has informed the Judge of Instruction that the investigation against UPB leader Ramonsito Booi and former UPB Commissioner Burney El Hage into possible corruption and money laundering has been closed but that three months will be needed to finalize the case. The prosecution now says the investigation has been closed but that the detective team in question needs two months to go through all the documents and other data confiscated and collected and to file a final report. The prosecution then needs another month to study the findings to determine what charges, if any, will be filed against whom and whether the case will go to trial. Attorney Gelmer Pieters, who represents the two suspects, does not agree with the request for another three months and says it is not in keeping with the spirit of the court's instructional rulings to provide clarity. He does not rule out the possibility of further legal steps against the prosecution.

►The RCN, the Caribbean Netherlands Kingdom Service (*Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland*) dismissed one of its workers in the Finance Department last Wednesday. The worker is suspected of leaking confidential information to a company in return for financial compensation from the company.

Despite the fact that there was no payoff, RCN management found the conduct of the worker unacceptable and he was suspended last Wednesday and additional measures are being considered. The RCN has started an investigation into the situation.

According to the RCN, its integrity is considered of high importance. "Government must always deal with matters in an open and fair manner and must set a good example in this regard. The RCN will not make any concessions in this regard and has therefore immediately broken the contract with the concerned worker," a press statement read.



►WILLEMSTAD — The management of Insel Air confirmed they received a letter on November 5 from the Curaçao Aviation Authority in which they are requested to maintain a minimum price of NAf 150 on the Curaçao-Bonaire route Insel Air currently maintains and advertises as a price ranging from NAf 100.

The director of the airline, Edward Heerenveen, states, "The letter indicates that airline companies flying this route have lodged an objection to the maintained rate. We are aware of the fierce protests from the immediate competitor, who wants to block the maintained competitive Insel Air rate of NAf 100."

According to Heerenveen, the Curaçao Minister of Traffic, Transport and Regional Planning is going to set up a committee in order to come up with minimum prices. Heerenveen believes the

The Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP) has been placed on the Dutch provisional candidate list of World Heritage Sites. Last Friday a commission nominated nine buildings and locations in the Dutch Kingdom, including the BNMP, in the world-famous UNESCO World Heritage List. World Heritage Site status is an especially significant benefit for tourism.



The Park was established over 30 years ago and was the first legally protected and actively managed marine park in the world. The United Nations (UNEP) has declared it a pioneer in environmental preservation. The Marine Park starts at the high water mark and extends to 200 ft (60 meters) of depth. It covers 2,700 hectares, about 27 km<sup>2</sup> (6,672 acres, about 10.5 m<sup>2</sup>) of coral reef, sea grass and mangrove ecosystems and provides a habitat for a variety of marine species, including over 50 species of hard corals and over 350 species of reef fish.

The largest uninhabited island in the Caribbean, Klein Bonaire, is part of the protected Marine Park.

The cabinet will strive to present the temporary list to the World Heritage Centre in Paris before April 2011. Subsequently, the candidates will actually be nominated during the course of the next 10 years. The Government Department for Cultural Heritage determines in which order that occurs

When Bonaire becomes a World Heritage site the island will have the same status as Australia's Great Barrier Reef and the Galapagos Islands.

NAf 100 price is an incentive for tourism from Curaçao to Bonaire and vice versa. The large number of persons taking advantage of the price clearly indicates this competitive price draws new passengers. Moreover, we maintain a price that is absolutely above the cost price," said Heerenveen.

►After 33 years of active politics, Jopie Abraham is stepping down as leader of the Democratic Party of Bonaire.



Abraham will not be on the candidate list for next year's - March 2 - Island Council elections and the party council is expected to choose a successor quickly. His son, Clark, has been working at his father's side in recent months. Jopie Abraham's father, Julio, was a founder of the Democratic party.

►THE HAGUE--The Dutch Democratic party D66 submitted an amendment Monday to the 2011 Dutch budget for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) funds to be allocated specifically for a comprehensive management plan for nature on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. The proposal will remove €600,000 reserved in the total budget and put this aside to execute a management plan to strengthen the quality of the natural environment on the islands. The management plan should include maintaining biodiversity on land and sea in consultation with local nature organizations.

►Cases of dengue fever can be expected to increase as a result of the heavy rainy season. One of dengue's main problems is that there's no cure, there's no vaccine and there are no drugs you can take to avoid it or get better from it, so the only

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# The National Ombudsman Explains

It was Tuesday 2 November 2010, around 7:25 in the evening. The snacks, the cold drinks and the warm beverages were ready. The waiters and waitresses were walking up and down in order to finish the last part of the preparation so that the meeting could begin. I went upstairs, entered the room and asked who the Ombudsman was. Someone showed him to me. I went straight to him and introduced myself to him and welcomed him. There were quite a lot of people. Almost all of them were European Dutch. If I am not wrong, there were only three local people at this meeting, including myself.

We all sat down and at 7:45 the Ombudsman started his discourse. He appears to be a friendly, approachable person. His name is Alex Brenninkmeijer. He said that he was very happy to be here in order to explain his job. He said that he is aware of the fact that the transition of 10-10-10 brings insecurity with it. He has been an Ombudsman for five years in Holland. Holland has had an Ombudsman for 30 years now. According to him an Ombudsman is a *vertrouwenspersoon*. This means a person one can trust.

A complaint box will be put at the RCN building. One can write a letter and throw it in this box. This letter will be scanned and sent to Holland. The Dutch budget does not allow an office on Bonaire on a short term. The intention is to reply with a letter within six weeks. They are also working on a free number to call the Ombudsman's office in Holland directly. It's planned for some Papiamentu-speaking workers to allow Antilleans conversation in their mother tongue.

The crucial question was: When does one need an Ombudsman? Mr. Brenninkmeijer said: "If you have the feeling that you have

been treated unfairly, you can ask the help of an Ombudsman." He continued: "It is very important when you let someone feel that he or she is being taken seriously." He said that the task of an Ombudsman is to show the government a mirror.

When he had finished with his speech, we had the opportunity to ask questions. I asked him: "How does one become an Ombudsman?" Everyone started laughing. I really don't know why. Perhaps they liked the question? He replied: "Do I have to explain how I sold myself?" Then he explained that there is a commission which consists of, among others, members of the Dutch "De Hoge Raad." (High Council) This group chooses an Ombudsman.

An Ombudsman mediates between a person and the government when there is a conflict or when the "door" has been closed. According to the Ombudsman, he can even mediate in cases where the Public Prosecutor did not proceed properly.

Mr. Brenninkmeijer: "The Ombudsman, after having studied the case, gives advice to the government. In 95% of the cases in which he gave advice, it was followed."



Alex Brenninkmeijer

Dutch Govt. photo

(Continued on page 17)

# Referendum Commission Kickoff

Will there finally be a referendum for Bonaire's population to comment on the recent linkup with The Netherlands?



If so, when ?

Why is the government planning a referendum if Bonaire has already become a public entity of Holland?

Why didn't they come up with a referendum before 10 October 2010, and why a referendum after 10-10-10? If all the people who have the right to vote go vote and if the majority votes for *no*, what will happen? Will the Dutch Antilles come back together?

I think everyone will agree, if I dare say so, that even mixed fried rice is easier to analyse than the matter of this referendum. Fortunately, in order to bring some clarity, a Referendum Commission was established.

Last Thursday the Commission called a press conference to begin the process towards a December 17 referendum that will ask voters to answer yes or no whether they agree (yes) or disagree (no) with the statement:

**"I agree that Bonaire became a public identity to conform to Art. 134 of the Dutch constitution."**

Members of the commission are Douwe Boersema, President; Marga Domingo, Secretary; Sherwin Pourier, Treasurer; Ramiro Richards, member; and Caroline Laurens, member.

Mr. Boersema opened the meeting and said that the referendum is divided into three stages: Information, Voting and Re-

sults.

As of Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> of November everyone is welcome at the office of this commission to ask questions about the referendum. The office is in the building of Privé Pro located at Kaya Grandi 53. The opening hours are from 8 am to 5 pm. The telephone number is 717-8848. There is also a website available which gives a lot of information: [www.referendumbonaire2010.org](http://www.referendumbonaire2010.org)

The commission will distribute information through bulletins available at supermarkets, stores and community centres where a commission employee can answer questions. To add little bit more flavor, there will also be a jingle on the radio.

Everyone over 18 years with the Dutch nationality and who is registered at the Civil Registry 50 days before the election, as well as legal residents with the same registration have the right to vote.

During the conference Bubui Cecilia of BonFM asked Mr. Boersema if the majority votes "no," can this change the decision that has been made? Boersema's answer to this question was not that clear. However, what did become clear is the fact that Bonaire cannot make any decision if Holland does not agree with it.

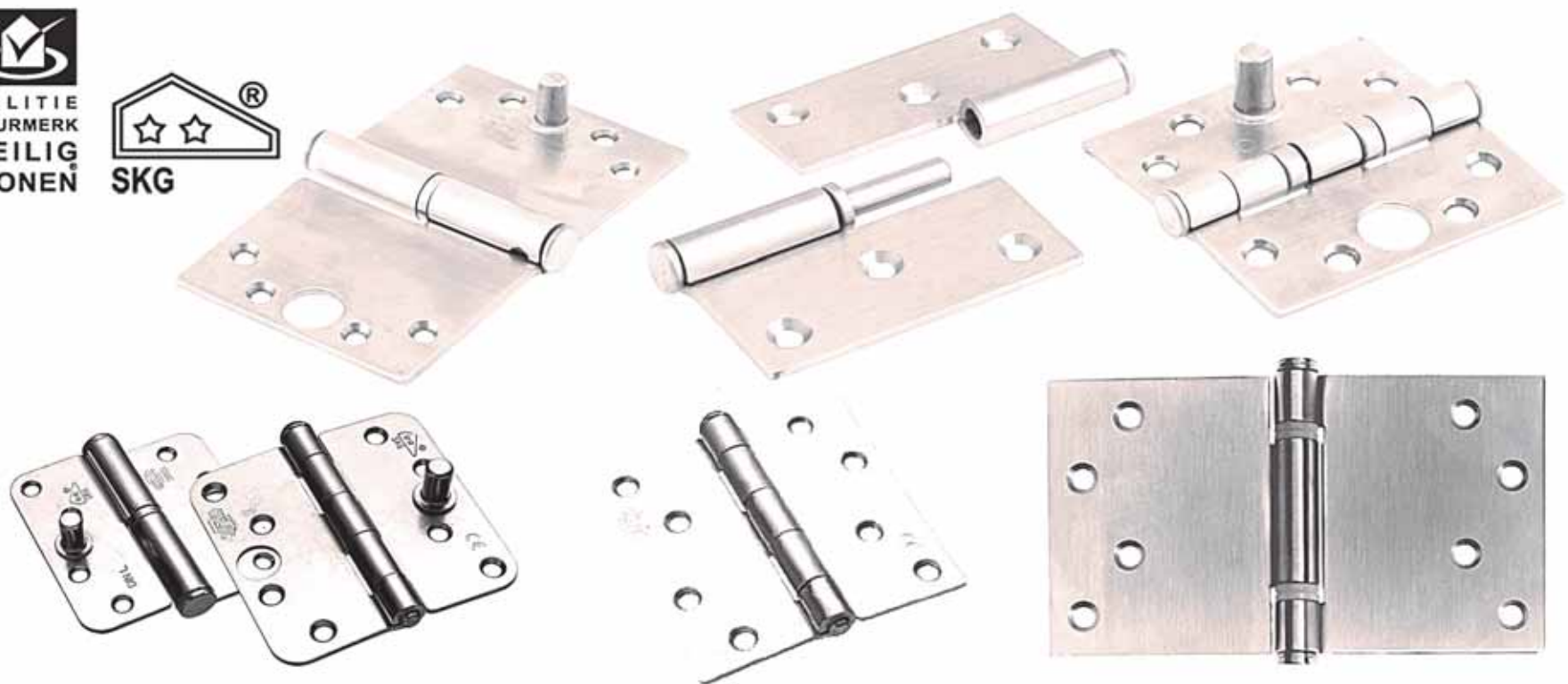
Later I asked Mr. Boersema whether there is a sort of clause in the agreement which entitles us to go back to the former status, if we see that this public entity stuff is not working. He said that there is no clause. ■

Norwin Leito



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# On the Island Since... 1993 - Alda Dirkz

"I was born on Aruba and I had a fantastic childhood. We had a big family, lots of friends and very good parents. After elementary school I went to Domestic Science School. My dad, who was from Bonaire, was working for Lago Refinery. When rumors started that the refinery was going to close and people had to be laid off, my dad could choose: retire or be declared unfit as he had had an accident at work about 15 years earlier. He chose to be declared unfit and we moved to Holland. It was 1974. For me it was a complete culture shock!

Twenty years earlier my grandmother had moved to Holland, and so my mom in all her innocence and naivety thought, 'Let's go and live there too.' We moved to Rotterdam and I went to school. I came from a nun's school on Aruba and in Rotterdam I went to school with at least

a hundred different nationalities... it was horrible." *She laughs.* "There's no other word for it!

My first experience was when I was standing in the schoolyard with my cousin and a girl came up to me and asked me for a 'roll-your-own' (cigarette). I was 15 years old and I looked at my cousin and asked her, 'What is it? What does she want?' Then the girl asked me, 'Don't you have a lighter? Don't you smoke?' I got the scare of my life! And so the girl said, "Okay, leave it. I'll ask the teacher," and she walked up to the teacher and I saw him taking out his tobacco from the pocket of his jacket.

When I told the class I was from Aruba, nobody knew where it was. I tried to explain and told them about the coast of Venezuela, and then one of the Dutch girls said, 'Oh, it's there... somewhere around Surinam... yeah, it's all the same, they all live in

little huts...' I defended my situation and told the class that my dad was an engineer and that we owned a big house in Aruba - ha!

I was in my puberty; it was hard. We lived in a very old house which didn't have a bathroom. To bathe we had to go to the public baths. All my friends were in Aruba and I only had my cousin and my siblings.

Well, I finished school and when I was 18 I started at an industrial school. I was one of the first girls." *She laughs.* "I know a lot of things; I know how to drill, to tap things like nuts, I know how to solder and how to read technical electricity drawings. For 13 years I worked as a print plate mechanic at GTI, Rotterdam.

Every time my parents moved I moved along with them. If they moved to an apartment I went to live in the same building. It went



Alda in front of The Touch

on like that for years. Then my mom told me, 'When your dad retires and gets his pension we will go back to Aruba. And you better start learning another profession otherwise you'll never find a job there!' They didn't see me working a man's job on Aruba! So, I started learning to become a hairdresser. Soon enough I found out it wasn't for me, but my parents raised me this way: 'Whether you like it or not, you have to finish what you started' - and that's what I did... I got married in Holland in

1987 to Nicolaas Dirksz. He was also from Aruba. He is a good, hardworking man and a wonderful father, just like my dad was. Together we have two children: our son Jessy, who's 23, and our daughter Amberlucia, who's 17. When Jessy was six, we moved to Bonaire because my parents had moved here. In Holland they'd already told us that Jessy had ADHD and here he wasn't doing well at school. We knew that he wouldn't make it at SGB high school and so the advice

(Continued on page 5)

**"...but my parents raised me this way. 'Whether you like it or not, you have to finish what you started' - and that's what I did."**

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**Born on Bonaire** (Continued from pg. 4) was to move to Holland. We decided to send him to my sister in Holland and then Jessy got very homesick. And... that's why I say my husband is an extraordinary dad, because he gave up everything and he went to stay with Jessy. When Jess called and said, 'Mom, I'm not coming to Bonaire for Christmas this year,' I knew he'd made it and that my husband would come home. Nowadays Jessy paints cars and he's good at it. He wants to become an air brusher and he's studying hard.

We came to Bonaire in 1993 and some years later I started working at the Spa in Harbour Village. We got a very thorough and fantastic professional training from the manager at the time, Carroll Opper, and after a year or so I thought, 'You know what, I could start for myself!' It was an innocent and naïve thought – because I didn't know anything about running a business. I had no experience whatsoever. I told Carroll about my plans and she said she'd expected it and she didn't like it because she'd invested a lot in us. But she appreciated my honesty and she told me, 'You've had a top training and nobody can take that away from you.'

First I started with a beauty parlor called 'A Place For You' with two other girls. Then I

worked at 'Hair Affair' and when Sara Matera started setting up the restaurant at Divi Flamingo Beach Hotel in 2000 I asked her to find me a little place on the premises to do pedicures and manicures. She got me one, 'The Touch,' and we started growing. I opened massage rooms and facial rooms and now, 10 years later, I have a staff of three people. It is a fantastic location. We have a lot of tourists, time share holders, repeat guests and local people. Pedicures are what I do the most and in general people here have very good feet! You meet a lot of people; I've got clients I've known for 10 years and every time they come, we share a part of each other's life."

*Alda is a strong woman, a professional. She's punctual, down to earth, a wonderful mom and a very nice lady.*

"My life has changed too, because not only does my mom live with us but our daughter Amberlucia got pregnant when she was 16. Eight months ago she gave birth to twin boys, Eugendrick and Eugewendrick. My husband and I are the very proud grandparents of these two little boys and we absolutely adore them." *She looks at me, pensively.* "You know, everything we told our daughter not to do, she did. She's very headstrong. We would like her to go to Holland next year, to follow a

higher education, because in the future she has to take care of two boys. Meanwhile my husband and I will look after the little ones. Amberlucia is only 17 and it's not going to be easy for her. Her life will have certain limitations. But... for us it's a blessing. I was raised with a lot of love and I'll do everything to have my children and grandchildren experience that too.

My dad was the best. He has spoiled me – all of us – tremendously. He was a very sweet man. Last year in November he passed away. We were so attached to each other. Everything we did we would discuss together in detail first and the opinion of the other was very important to the both of us. We really would listen to each other. He always told me, 'You don't have to worry because I will live to be 120.' When he fell ill I took him and my mother into my house because they were living at Trasdí Montana by themselves. On the land around our house we

built a house for my parents, so I had them close and I could take better care of them. When my dad became bedridden I took care of him, and when the doctor told me, 'Alda, it won't be long anymore,' I refused to accept it. We are with the Pentecostal Church and we believe in healing and when I told the pastor I wanted to pray for my daddy's recovery he told me, 'You know, Alda, just like you would pray for his recovery - now you should be able to pray to let him go and thank him for being your dad and for all the good years he has given you.' It's been a very long mourning.

I will stay on Bonaire. I've

lived in Holland for 20 years and those were my best years because I grew up, I got married and had my children. Never say never, but I have no plans. I feel very happy here. I have my job, my friends, my house and I know what it means to leave everything behind and move to another country." *She laughs:* "I don't want to think about it!" ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Left to right: Vanessa Janga, Alda and Cristina Rood

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# BONAIREAN VOICES

## THE 10-10-10 AFTERMATH

Early this month every heart in the Dutch Antilles, and around the globe were sharing the countdown to a new era: yes, a new episode in our lives.

Most of us celebrate that day. For others it was sad to see the Netherlands Antilles dissolving. The Netherlands Antilles does not exist anymore. Each island has gone its own way. But the reality has still to come. At the end of October 2010 loose ends remained. Some former Central Government employees on Bonaire didn't receive their whole salary. Catholic clergymen haven't been paid at all, and four Bonairean meteorologists didn't make the October payroll. And these are just a few issues to mention.

In the interest of all Bonaireans I interviewed the Commissioner of State Structure, Mr. Anthony Nicolaas (36).

### First question. What was the reason for a sudden change in government and why just a few days before 10-10-10?

Nicolaas: "In June 12, 2009, in a coalition with the Red Party under the name, Alliance Democratic Bonairean Party, we signed a decree at the Passangrahn (government meeting office) for two main points:

- To organize a referendum
- To change the direction in which things had been negotiated with Holland

On September 9, 2010, Mr. Jopi Abraham leader of the Democrat/Red Party, with mixed feelings, signed the definitive papers with Holland formalizing that the Government of Bonaire is in complete agreement with Holland for what had been negotiated.

Seeing that Mr. Abraham had signed the same agreements as Green party leader Booi had I felt that I hadn't accomplished what I was working for over a year.

I couldn't support the government of Abraham anymore. That's why I decided to join with the Green party, and the new coalition Government made up of the UPB/ Green Party and Independent Anthony Nicolaas, myself, took over on October 7, 2010.

Of course some paper work wasn't ready—like the salaries of the meteorologists and the clergymen. Holland affirmed, without the intervention of the Bonairean Government, that every employee of the Central Government would be under the Crown Service for the Caribbean Netherlands (*Rijksdienst Caribische Nederland-the RCN*) and would be taken care of. So if something went wrong we have to say that it was those who signed the agreement—the former Antillean Central Government and Holland and not the Bonairean Government.

Mr. Jardim, former director of the Finance Office for the Netherlands Antilles, had been appointed to finish all the paperwork that still needed to be done in order to pay what had not been paid and it happened.

What more can we expect after 10-10-10 is that in agreement with the Art. 134 of the Dutch constitution, Bonaire is a public entity and the Dutch Parliament and its Prime Minister, Mark Rutte, from the VVD party, is responsible for some municipal responsibilities like the fire department, justice department, police, social rights and welfare, work and residency



Commissioner Mr. Anthony Nicolaas

permits, health care, general health insurance, education and scholarship. Another change is that the pension for the elderly was increased by NAf 26, the welfare benefits have been improved and the age for collecting the pension is being raised from 60 to 65. The Island Government still has to take care of its affairs like the hygiene department, roads, housing, airport, harbors, etc.

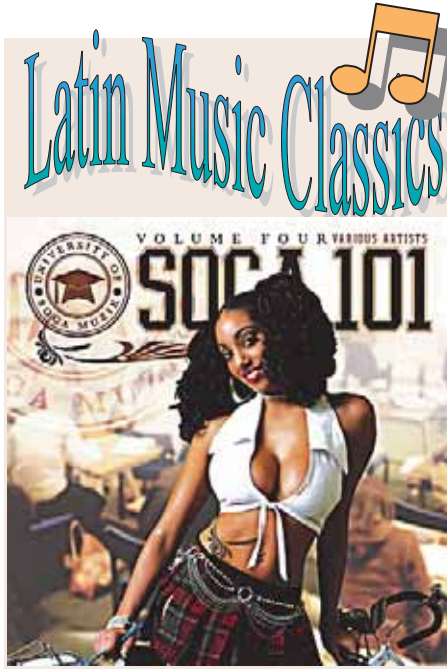
By January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, we can expect a new financial system for tax collection, introduction of the US dollar and laws for education. Another thing that we expect is a Referendum. The Island Council of the Public Entity of Bonaire has decided that on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010, to ask the following question, 'I agree that Bonaire became a public identity to conform to Art. 134 of the Dutch constitution.' And we have to answer A. Yes, I agree, or B. No, I do not agree.

**Why I demanded a referendum is because people have the right to choose their own destiny.** From 2004 until now people of Bonaire didn't have the opportunity to make a decision about the agreement made by the politicians. With this referendum it can send a signal to the Island Government and to Holland that the local people on Bonaire are happy or unhappy with the new constitutional system. In the short term there is not much you can do with the yes or no, but (if no) in the long term we can restart the negotiation with Holland and become something else. We can work to become an autonomous country in the Kingdom like Curaçao, Sint Maarten and Aruba, an independent cCountry or be fully integrated into Holland, like a municipality of Holland or another form of government decided by the people.

In the near future Holland will collect most of the taxes. The Island Government doesn't have sufficient income to cover all the expenses. Holland will partially cover some percentage of the whole budget and the Island Government has to cover the rest, with the consequence that they will have to raise the prices on some products, for example, number plates for vehicles. Let hope for the best and wait for the response of our referendum."

We have now reviewed what has taken place. Next, what we can expect after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011? ■ Siomara Albertus

Send your comments to *The Bonaire Reporter*, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, or email [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com).



In the last edition of "Latin Music Classics" we spoke about "Hot Hot Ho" as the biggest selling Soca hit of all times. What is Soca? Soca is a form of popular West Indian music originating in Trinidad and Tobago. It combined the melodic sound of Calypso with insistent percussion. Soca reached its modern form by the early 1970s under the influence of American soul, disco and funk music. Soca music is based on a strong rhythmic section done by a drum set and is indeed defined by its loud, fast percussion beats. Recently soca has replaced calypso as the most celebrated type of music with carnival, the biggest annual celebration on many islands in the region.

## Jody's Music Quiz

### This week's question:

In 1998 "The Soca Boys" had a big soca hit all over the world. What was the title of this song?

Please send your answer to: [info@jodysbonaire.com](mailto:info@jodysbonaire.com) and be entered in a drawing to win a CD of your own choice in Jody's shop at Lagoen Hill #18. The winner of this week's contest will be announced in the next edition of *The Reporter*.

Last week's answer: Last week's answer: The World Cup 1986 was held in Mexico.

Unfortunately there was no winner of the free CD.. ■ Jo Bux

Column sponsor: Jody's Fashion & Music



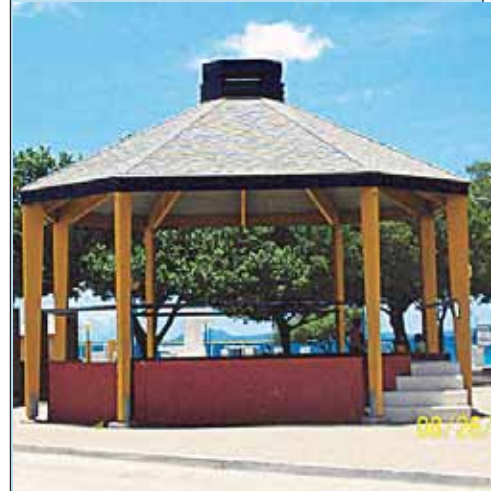
Jody's is the well-known Fashion-shop for men and women at Lagoen Hill.

In the collection they have 100% original brands like: Nike, G-Star, Replay, Lacoste, Zuccherro, A Prioro and Zulu.

At the cruise market Jody's Music is one of the stakeholders and always tries to bring in the best music for young and old at the right moment.

# BonQuiz #41

## SOIREE SITE



In the 'old days' when there wasn't television, just the radio, and even that entertainment was limited for many families, it was common to hold parties and events in the evenings in public places. A particular structure was used by local bands to entertain the community. Soirees were held there. This particular one is new and is in the Wilhelmina Park. There is another one, also in Playa (Kralendijk).

### Questions:

- A) Where is the other soiree structure?
- B) What is it called in Papiamentu?

Answer on page 17

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](mailto:christie-dovale@hotmail.com).



## DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

# Body Talk

## CALCIUM – CURSE OR CURE?

Calcium: probably the most talked about mineral of our times. Ask 10 people on their views of calcium, and you will get 10 different views, 10 different results and all the expert opinions to go with that.

Most have no idea what type of calcium is in their supplements or whether it is good or bad for them. But hey, we have been told that we must supplement with calcium to prevent osteoporosis. Apart from supplements, every edible substance is calcium fortified. There are two specific problems with this. Firstly the media hype that calcium has been given for so many years (thanks to the supplement industry) is also an excellent money-spinner, as most of the calcium used is either coral calcium (completely useless to the human body) or something called microcrystalline hydroxyapatite (MCHA) a variation of bone meal.

Studies have shown that MCHA, peddled to the osteoporosis-phobic public, has inferior solubility, absorption and effects on calcium metabolism. (Certainly cheap to produce)

Comparing the absorption of various calcium supplements, it was found that inorganic calcium salts and most organic acid calcium chelates fall into the 5% to 25% range of absorption. More on the various calciums later, as absorption into the human body is a far bigger problem than most people will realize.

Calcium absorption occurs through a very narrow window in the upper intestinal tract. The reason it is so high in the GI tract is that calcium must be absorbed while the intestinal environment is relatively acidic, as it is shortly after leaving the stomach and before it has been completely neutralized by the alkaline secretions of the pancreas.

The requirement of an acid pH for calcium absorption explains why low hydrochloric acid production by the stomach causes

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 the UK and now researches Bonaire health issues. She is the owner of the *Essence Nutritional Center*



poor calcium supplement absorption. Calcium is soluble in acid saliva but insoluble in alkaline saliva causing calcium carbonates and phosphates to form tartar on the teeth. The movement of calcium, extracellular and intracellular, are tightly controlled and rather complex as 99% of body calcium is in bone. Vitamin E and/or FA (lipids with negative polar groups) are needed to move calcium into tissues.

Short of having a blood test done, it is virtually impossible for the layman to determine whether their calcium levels are sufficient. However, I have a very simple test you can do at home to see whether you have insufficient levels of calcium in the body. Take a clear glass and put about a teaspoon full of saliva in (no post nasal drip, thank you). Is your saliva foamy, lots of bubbles but reasonably clear? The first bit of bad news is you are calcium deficient, the second bit of bad news is that you are most probably also potassium deficient. Are you supplementing with calcium? Are you beginning to understand why calcium could be bad for you?

I hope with this series of articles on calcium to make you better understand how vital and beneficial the correct calcium is for your body, and at the same time show you why, unless you know that you are deficient, indiscriminate supplementing could be extremely harmful.

To be continued...

■ Stephanie Bennett



## SHEBA

20th April 1998 - 13th November 2010

Sheba's remarkable story touched many people on Bonaire. Her ninth life ended peacefully. We would like to thank the people who helped give us two extra years with her, - The Animal Shelter, Jan and in particular Manuela Winklaar and her family.  
Stephanie & Phil Bennett

# A Grand Plan for Sunset Beach



These scenes from years gone by on Playa Lechi/Bonaire/Sunset Beach can be repeated with a new generation of Bonairean youngsters- if the beach is public and not part of a "chain" hotel. Recognize anyone?

Bonaire has a long tradition of environmental conservation that has won it an enviable, international reputation. In 1969, STINAPA began the national land park, which was the first of its kind in the Dutch Caribbean. Ten years later, the Bonaire Marine Park was established with funding from the World Wildlife Fund. This led to worldwide recognition for our coral reef protection.

Years later, developers had plans to build a resort hotel on Klein Bonaire. Residents rallied to keep the offshore island in its natural state. In 1999, the newly elected government listened to the wishes of the people, and by year's end, raised the \$5 million necessary to purchase the island from the developers. Klein Bonaire is now a designated, protected area managed by STINAPA.

Now Bonaire faces another preservation challenge. Sunset Beach, originally Playa Lechi, then Bonaire Beach, located just north of the present Eden Beach Resort, is rumored to be the focus of developers who want to use the land to build a luxury resort and elected officials who support the idea. However, this goes against the current wishes of island residents and visitors. According to a recent survey conducted by *Fundashon Playa Publico*, 80% of Bonaireans and 90% of visitors responded that they do NOT want a large hotel built at the Sunset Beach location. The survey was given in Papiamentu and English to 1600 people.

*Fundashon Playa Publico* believes this is a grand opportunity for Bonaire to create a model community beach, one that is environmentally friendly, for the rest of the Caribbean to admire. It has the potential to create lasting jobs for Bonaireans, increase the island's eco reputation in the tourism industry, and most of all, deliver a beautiful, seaside park for both locals and visitors to enjoy. The *Fundashon*, the non-profit foundation that wants Sunset Beach to remain open to the public, has offered some innovative ideas on how the beach can be developed for all.

Imagine a place of natural beauty, tranquility, and culture; a spot that captures the look and feel of Bonaire with Dutch Colonial architecture and a *poco poco* beach vibe; a location where there is unspoiled, happy interaction between locals and visitors, but also a park that has mixed-use as a goal.

*Fundashon Playa Publico* sees this as a timely opportunity for Bonaireans to operate local business ventures. Some ideas: beach chair/umbrella rentals, food stands and local craft stands. The terrain is large enough to incorporate a museum, an amphitheater for music performances or perhaps Captain Don's idea of an Accolade to honor the pioneers of Bonaire diving. Boardwalks could meander through the grounds and offer information on the flora and fauna of seaside Bonaire through interpretive signs. This would give the island's elderly a chance to enjoy the park along with their families.

A nature oriented visitor center, complete with boat ramp, could include an interactive, learning center where children and adults would learn about Bonaire's natural world. "Sunset Beach would be an ideal location for us," adds Elsmarie Beukenboom, Director of STINAPA. "We conducted a feasibility study and discovered that, number one, Bonaireans want our future visitor center accessible. Sunset would meet that need and also serve as a great place to locate our

**Have you photos of activities at Playa Lechi/Bonaire Beach/ Sunset Beach in years gone by? Send snapshots to (they will be returned to you) Bonaire Reporter, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Caribbean or email scanned photos to [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)**

headquarters, which is now inconveniently located at Barkadera. We would like to have displays at the new visitors center that show the interrelationships between land and sea. Everything on land impacts the sea and few locals or tourists know this."

The park would also have a special appeal to tourists. Since most are active people who dive, windsurf, snorkel, etc, this location has the potential to become a major tourist attraction. It could also accommodate the families of divers and windsurfers while the water sports enthusiasts are busy at other parts of the island. Additionally, it could serve as a gathering place for cruise ship visitors. Currently, busloads of day-trippers are transported to Lac Bay, which is already experiencing excessive visitation detrimental to that fragile wetlands environment. "It is a serious problem," explains Beukenboom. "But by diverting tourists to Sunset Beach as an alternative, this would reduce visitation impact on Lac. Plus, why use all that gas transporting cruise ship people so far away when they could be delivered to a nice place like Sunset Beach?"

But for this grand plan to happen, work needs to be done and financial support found. We only need to look at the success of the effort for the preservation of Klein Bonaire to know that this is possible. It will take a strong, grass roots effort to save Sunset Beach for all, but it can be accomplished. **Write to the local officials\* expressing your desire to preserve the beach for the public.**

Without your help, Sunset Beach may be taken over by a luxury resort with limited or no access for the people of Bonaire. It is time to stand up and extend our island's rich legacy as an environmental leader in the Caribbean. It is time for Sunset Beach to become Bonaire's next crown jewel for all to enjoy. ■

Patrick Holian/ Photos courtesy of Elvis Martinus



### \* Local Officials in Government:

**George Soliana**, Head of the Bonaire Government management group responsible for government property: [george.soliana@gmail.com](mailto:george.soliana@gmail.com)

**Elvis Tjin Asjoe**, Commissioner of Economics Affairs: [elvistjinasjoe@gmail.com](mailto:elvistjinasjoe@gmail.com)



# Conch Restoration Project

On Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, members of STINAPA Bonaire gathered with the local community in Lac-Cai to announce its newest project, "We Are the World: Conch Restoration in Lac." The project is being subsidized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) with the subsidy request going through the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA).

The project will last for a minimum of three years and is meant to restore the conch population in Lac. Conch has always been an important part of Bonaire's ecosystem and its culture. Once abundant, conch in Lac were even exported to Curaçao during the 1960s. Unfortunately, the conch population has declined over the years, mainly due to poachers who take the conch for personal consumption. Today, local fisherman can still harvest conch but only with a permit.

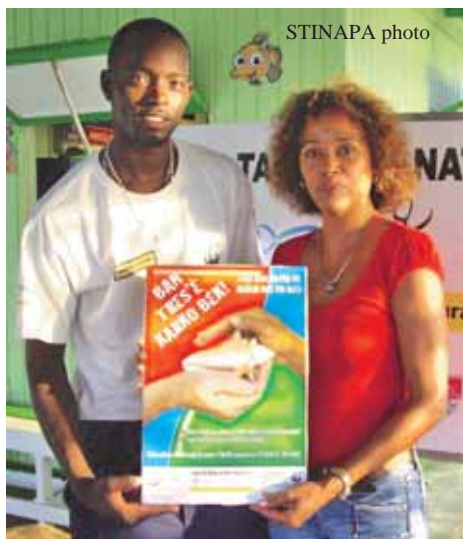
According to Ramon de Leon, manager of Bonaire's National Marine Park, the conch restoration project is a chance for STINAPA to restore not just the conch, but also the Lac area in general, saying, "We have been busy with this area for a very long time. Now we have the opportunity to really tackle the different problems that we have here in Lac." de Leon emphasized that local fisherman would still be able to continue to harvest conch. "Many people have been harvesting conch for a very long time. Our approach is that these people should keep doing that but in a different way, and

we will be trying to set the standard for that over these next three years." STINAPA has even started working with some of the local fisherman on this project because of their expertise and will continue to do so throughout the project. "The fisherman know this area much better than we do," said de Leon.

STINAPA will be monitoring the conch population by using a GPS tracking system to see how the conchs move through the ocean. STINAPA is hoping that this will also give them some insight on conch behavior. Once the population is stable enough, the fishermen in Lac will be issued permits to sell conch to the public in Lac-Cai.

In addition to monitoring the population, STINAPA is also working to educate the public on the importance of not taking conch from the ocean. Diana Sint Jago, project coordinator, has worked to create a poster that shows an old and a young hand holding one of the conch shells, urging locals to preserve the conch for future generations of Bonaireans.

While taking conch has always been illegal without a permit since 1985, the law has never been strictly enforced. STINAPA plans to change that, and will begin to place park rangers in Lac that will be enforcing the rules and ensuring the safety of the conch population. Violators caught taking conch will receive a citation and a fine from STINAPA for a first offense. If they are caught again they will face jail time. Els-marie Beukenboom, Director of STINAPA claims that everyone needs to help with the



STINAPA Ranger Suhendley (Pápa) Barzey with project coordinator Diana Sint Jago

effort to stop poachers, "we need the help of the entire population of Bonaire to assist us in the policing of the poachers and only with that can we succeed. If the poaching continues we will never be able to succeed."

While many people seem to be supportive of the restoring the conch population in Lac, one local man questioned the timeline of the project by asking STINAPA if three years was really enough time to see if the conch population starts to grow again. The man suggested that growth in the population might take fifteen or even twenty years. It typically takes a conch about five years to reach maturity in order to reproduce; therefore, STINAPA might extend the project another two years. De Leon admitted that three years was a short time, and



The Blue Mekong Thai Restaurant Opening

Piek and Anton held a party for friends last Saturday night to celebrate the opening of their new restaurant, Blue Mekong Thai Restaurant, upstairs at Kaya Grandi 5.

The restaurant will open officially for business Tuesday, November 16. Diners may order a selection of five, seven or nine dishes, priced accordingly. Blue Mekong will be open Tuesday through Friday evenings for dinner. Reservations are recommended. Call 717-5556. Piek and Anton are well known as the original owners of Little Havana for a number of years. ■

L.D.

that STINAPA will continue to try to improve and update the project as time goes on.

Mallory Smith



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# “Union in Diversity” Exhibit Success

October 31<sup>st</sup> brought an end to Kas di Arte’s three-week exhibition, “Artistic Interchange in The Dutch Kingdom: Union in Diversity.” The exhibit, which opened on 10-10-10, was meant to commemorate Bonaire’s new political status as a Dutch municipality of Holland.

The exhibit featured over 20 artists, including works from Winfred Dania, Henk Roozendaal, Renate van der Bijl, Manuela Winklaar, Frans Booi, Ria Verhoef, Jake Richter, Ronald Verhoeven, Nochi Coffie, Sedney Marten, Gustave Nouel, Harald Vlugt, Johannes Boekhoudt, Edmond Tujeehut, Wine Fransen, Ad Rooymans, Yubi Kirindongo, Elvis Tromp, Ruben La Cruz, Karolien Helweg, Maria Theresa Verhoef Dupree and Frank Croes. Of these artists, half came from Bonaire and the other half came from abroad, including Aruba, Curaçao and Holland.

Jackie Bernabela, Director of Kas di Arte, initially came up with the theme as a way for artists to express themselves about Bonaire’s political transition. “I said with such a memorable day, let’s do something about it in the art field. Let’s express what we feel about this.” In order to be included in the exhibit, artists had to incorporate some aspect of the theme into their piece. After receiving the works of art, Thomas Mijer Zu Schloctern assisted Bernabela in curating the exhibition.

Artists drew on a variety of subjects in their work, such as landscapes, people and politics. Many of the paintings depicted a sense of uncertainty about



Mask by Maria Theresa Verhoef Dupree at the Kas di Arte exhibit

the future of Bonaire and how the change would affect life on the island. Some of the paintings were very somber. One piece shows a Bonairean man weeping as he hands over Bonaire to a woman from Holland. Other pieces however, were very upbeat about the new union. In another painting we see two sides of a vase, meant to represent Bonaire and Holland, filled with colorful flowers being joined together, with a gift tag that reads, “One for all, all for one! These flowers belong to you!”

Overall, Bernabela considers the exhibition to be a great success both for Kas di Arte and for herself, saying, “It was a success just to make it happen, to get all the artists together and work towards one theme. It was hard work!” Bernabela felt that Kas di Arte

was one of the few places on the island that really celebrated the significance of 10/10/10. “No one did anything on 10/10/10 except the national park. They took the Antillean flag down, and that was the big thing. But I made something of it. To me that was a success. To make an event of something so significant was a success for me.”

Maria Theresa Verhoef Dupree, one of the artists featured in the exhibition was pleased with the exhibition and the piece she had created - a large blue mask painted with three birds, which she said “represents Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba,” the BES islands.

This year Bernabela was able to get funding for the exhibition with a subsidy from the government, the first government-funded subsidy that Kas di Arte has received in its 10-year history. “We hope we will get one next year too, but that’s still a question”

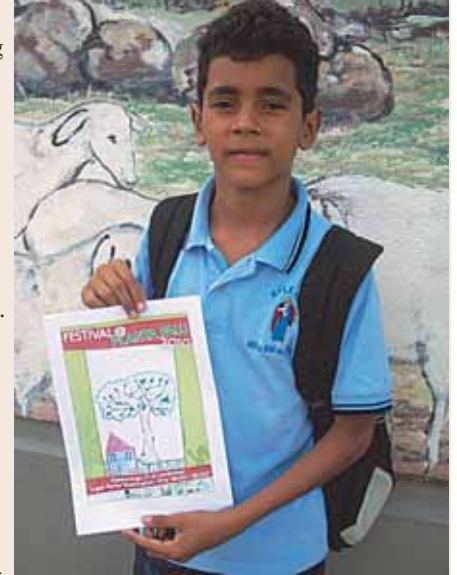
Most of all, Bernabela has been pleased with the feedback she has gotten from the public which she says has been very positive, “Many people have said that they were happy to pass by and see the exhibition. People were interested in the theme and enthusiastic about what they saw. It gave me lots of encouragement.” ■ *Story & Photo by Mallory Smith*



# Festival di Palu Planta Contest

Last week a tree drawing competition was held for sixth graders in Bonaire primary schools in connection with the Festival di Palu Planta-the Tree Planting Festival.

Thirteen finalists were selected: **Merien Heart** - Bon Kolegio Kristu Wardador, **Danni Ella Drullard** - Kolegio Papa Cornes, **Aquinas Lopez** - Kolegio Papa Cornes, **Brandon Begina** - The Pelican School, **Linde van Blerk** - The Pelican School, **Simeon Nicacia** - Watapana School, **Kevin Christian** - Kolegio San Luis Beltran, **Blue Burger** - Aquamarine School, **William Uding** - Aquamarine School, **Gugin El Hage** - Aquamarine School, **Tiffany Martina** - Reina Beatrix Kolegio, **Rudo de Vries** - Kolegio San Bernardo, and **Gabriel Guarenas** - Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador. The winning design will be



Winner Gabriel Guarenas from Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador.

BBB Photo

used for the poster of the Festival di Palu Planta 2010. The other 12 designs will be made into a calendar for the 2011 Festival di Palu Planta. The organizing committee would also like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to the **Festival di Planta Palu on Sunday, November 21, at 4 pm, at the entrance to the Washington / Slagbaai Park.** Let us make this event something good for ourselves and for our children. ■

Press Release/G.D.



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# Kas di Arte - 10 Years



Jackie Bernabela, one of Kas di Arte's founders, live, and in a Verhoeven painting



Henny and Ronald Verhoeven at their Exhibit at Kas di Arte

On December 14, 2001, painter Ronald Verhoeven and sculptor Josephine Ebbing were the first to have an exhibit at Kas di Arte. But before their exhibit could open the building had to be renovated. Spearheaded by Hubert Vis of SKAL and Alfred Ronde the renovations began during the summer of 2001. Then Ronald, his wife, Henny, and Josephine rolled up their sleeves and went to work. With the help of donations of paint by Criollo (aka Global Paint) and Kooymans they set to work painting, scrubbing, even dealing with the antiquated electrical system, installing spot lights. It took their elbow grease and their financial support to transform the place and Kas di Arte was on its way.

On Sunday, November 7, Ronald Verhoeven, to celebrate Kas di Arte's 10<sup>th</sup> an-

niversary, opened a new exhibition along with some unique driftwood furniture and art objects from Germaine Nijdam. It was a festive occasion, opened by the governor accompanied by the music of the popular Tutti Frutti group.

Jackie Bernabela spoke about Kas di Arte's history. "In the year 2000, a number of art lovers including, Jackie Bernabela, Hubert Vis, Alfred Ronde, Henny and Ronald Verhoeven, Amy Bais, Lilian de Geus and Clisia Nicholas-Frans, established the Artebon Foundation. The logo consisted of a puppet in the middle of many colors. Later we grew up and changed the name to Kas di Art with a logo of two colors. Bonaire, in spite of everything, has mostly stayed the same and we hope to keep it that way!

Why Ronald Verhoeven? Since the first

opening in 2001 of Ronald Verhoeven (and sculptress Josephine Ebbing) which immediately attracted much interest, there followed over the years many events, including the visit of the Queen, who opened the exhibition 'Homage to the Bonairean Artist.' Many Bonairean artists have found their way here and have used this beautiful building to show their artistic expressions. There have been many problems in recent years, especially the ETERNAL one of money, but activities by the foundation have been able to keep the building maintained. This year for the first time we had governmental assistance and now in 2010 we are very proud and grateful that all is well. Kas di Arte is a household name and the building is now painted to look fresh. I hope you enjoy the exhibition and the music and now we blow out the candles on the cake with Gezaghebber Glenn Thodé."

## Ronald Verhoeven

Painter Ronald Verhoeven and his wife, Henny, have been part time residents on to Bonaire since 1988. Most of the 30 very large and very colorful paintings in this exhibit have been inspired by the culture, colors and light of the island. They are a joy to the eye! Many believe he's captured the essence of Bonaire. One person said, "I love his work because he has a message: there are abstract elements to be visually interesting but with enough realism to make it seem familiar." "He thinks a lot before beginning a painting," says his wife, Henny. "It's all in his mind and it can be a struggle'.... between the painter and his materials. And he can paint what he wants!" there are several also in this exhibit depicting another of his favorite themes: Greek mythology.

(Continued on page 13)



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Cruise Ship Calls -Information provided by the TCB

Crafts Markets at Wilhelmina Park on Fridays and Cruise Ship Visiting Days—usually 10 am until ship departure.				
Date	Day	Ship name	Time	PAX
Every Sunday through Tuesday	From now through Spring 2011	Scientology ship <i>Freewinds</i>	Arrives 0630 Departs 2200	150
Fri	Nov-19	<i>Friday market</i>	0900	1400
Sun	Nov-21	<i>Maasdam</i>	0800	1700
Mon	Nov-22	<i>Aida Vita</i>	0800	1600
		<i>Ventura</i>	0800	1800
Thu	Nov-25	<i>Caribbean Princess</i>	1100	2000
Fri	Nov-26	<i>Grandeur of the Seas</i>	0700	1600
Wed	Dec-01	<i>Constellation</i>	0800	1600
Fri	Dec-03	<i>Sea Princess</i>	0800	1800

### CLOSE-IN EVENTS

**Friday, November 19**—B-Loose at Little Havana, 9:30 pm– 1 am. See page 6

**Saturday, November 20**- La Cuadra Venezolana Concert. European, Venezuelan classical/traditional music & more. 8 pm at Plaza Resort. See page 6

**Sunday, November 21**—B-Loose at Plaza Resort, 5-8:30 pm. See page 6

**November 21**—Tree Planting Festival (Festival di Planta Palu), Washington Park Entrance, 4 pm. See page 10

**Saturday, November 27** – Arrival of Sanikolas (aka Sinterklaas), 10 am, Wilhelmina Park. Activities for children begin earlier.

**Saturday, December 11** – Animal Shelter Fundraising Auction to benefit the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Eddy's at Sand Dollar Resort, starting at 7 pm. Free entrance. More information 717-4989. See page 18

**Tuesday, December 14**- Stichting Project Fundraising Dinner, 7 pm. See page 15

**Friday December 17**—Referendum voting. See page 3

**Monday, December 27** –STCB-STINAPA Fundraiser— Leo Hoogenboom & Felix Faassen Dive Around Klein Bonaire. See page 17

### REGULAR EVENTS

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

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

#### Saturdays

- **Rincon Marshé**—6 am-2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, music. **Big 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 (NA\$17,50) 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 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

**Wednesday** - **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every 2nd and 4th

**Wednesday** in the conference room at Captain Don's Habitat (717-8290)

### BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

**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, NA\$2,50, call Renata at 796-5591 to find out the evening's location.

**Darts Club** plays every other **Sunday** at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

**JCI - First Wednesday of the Month**- Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire, formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

**Kiwanis Club** meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other **Tuesday**, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

**Lions Club** meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> **Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

**Rotary lunch meetings Wednesdays**, 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 701-1100.

**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, 10am. *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.  
**Foundation Fountain of Living Waters, Centro Fuente**, Service Sunday at Kaya Aruaco 4 at 6 p.m. Preaching in Papiamentu and Spanish. For Marriage Counseling, contact 717-2161

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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MISCELLANEOUS

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*Kas di Arte –10 years (Continued from page 11)*

Verhoeven was born in East Java, Indonesia and moved to Holland with his parents at the age of 14. He graduated from the Academy of Visual Arts in Rotterdam in 1959. Until 1995 he was in advertising and an art director, having established his own advertising agency. In 1980 he began painting then in 1995 he retired and handed over his agency to his sons so that he could dedicate himself completely to visual arts. He has an atelier in Belgium and Bonaire. He's had exhibitions in The Netherlands, France, Belgium and now this is his fifth in Bonaire

**One of the artist's biggest pleasures is to invite youngsters into his exhibit to view and to chat. School children with their teachers and/or parents are very welcome, he says.**

Exhibition Ronald Verhoeven will continue until December 5 at Kas di Arte, Kaya J.N.E.Craane 34. Open Tuesday through Fridays, 10 am to noon and 2 to 7 pm. On Saturdays 10 am to noon. ■

Laura DeSalvo



*Artist Verhoeven, Mechtild Thodé and Governor Glenn Thodé open the exhibit*

*A note concerning prices: In Holland Verhoeven's works would cost more than double because galleries charge an extra 50% and there is a staggering high OB to pay there. Several of his paintings have been made into prints and are also for sale.*

**Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides**

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

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
<b>November</b>							
<b>Fri 19</b>		02:57 / 0.16 ft	10:55 / 0.97 ft	20:35 / 0.03 ft		6:34	18:07
<b>Sat 20</b>	11:30 / 1.02 ft	21:26 / - 0.05 ft				6:35	18:07
<b>Sun 21</b>	12:09 / 1.06 ft	22:10 / - 0.11 ft	Full Moon			6:35	18:07
<b>Mon 22</b>	12:52 / 1.09 ft	22:46 / - 0.16 ft				6:36	18:07
<b>Tue 23</b>	13:37 / 1.11 ft	23:18 / - 0.19 ft				6:36	18:07
<b>Wed 24</b>	14:24 / 1.10 ft	23:47 / - 0.21 ft				6:37	18:07
<b>Thu 25</b>	15:12 / 1.07 ft					6:37	18:07
<b>Fri 26</b>		00:13 / - 0.21 ft	06:44 / 0.38 ft	09:24 / 0.37 ft	16:01 / 1.00 ft	6:38	18:07
<b>Sat 27</b>		00:37 / - 0.21 ft	06:48 / 0.50 ft	11:19 / 0.38 ft	16:52 / 0.89 ft	6:38	18:07
<b>Sun 28</b>	L Quarter Moon	01:02 / - 0.19 ft	07:13 / 0.65 ft	12:55 / 0.34 ft	17:44 / 0.75 ft	6:39	18:08
<b>Mon 29</b>		01:28 / - 0.17 ft	07:46 / 0.81 ft	14:25 / 0.28 ft	18:40 / 0.60 ft	6:39	18:08
<b>Tue 30</b>		01:55 / - 0.14 ft	08:23 / 0.96 ft	15:50 / 0.18 ft	19:42 / 0.44 ft	6:40	18:08
<b>December</b>							
<b>Wed 01</b>		02:22 / - 0.10 ft	09:04 / 1.09 ft	17:10 / 0.07 ft	20:53 / 0.29 ft	6:40	18:08
<b>Thu 02</b>		02:50 / - 0.05 ft	09:48 / 1.19 ft	18:25 / 0.03 ft	22:16 / 0.18 ft	6:41	18:08
<b>Fri 03</b>		03:18 / - 0.00 ft	10:35 / 1.24 ft	19:34 / - 0.13 ft	23:55 / 0.11 ft	6:41	18:09

**Remember the Crafts Market operates every Friday, cruise ship or not**

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# SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

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## ON & IN THE WATER

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## HEALTH

**Go Green**—Tina Woodley's new shop, in the building in front of the church in Playa, offers healthful and tasty products, many of them from Tree of Life



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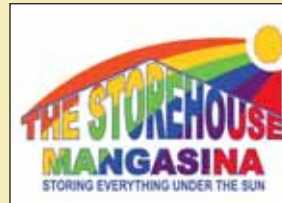


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# Art & Craft Market Alive & Well Cover Story



Sipke Stapert photo

Although there have already been a few ships this season, the Bonaire Art and Craft Association decided to wait until early November to hold an opening event. Originally scheduled for November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Hurricane Tomas forced some changes in plan. First because the ship scheduled for that day was forced to change its itinerary, and then because of the rain (see cover).

Finally on November 10<sup>th</sup> all the members of the market gathered for snacks and drinks after the *Caribbean Princess* departed at 2pm. Lt. Governor Glenn Thodé joined in late, and spoke to the market members about the importance of the market to Bonaire. He emphasised the unique quality of this market, with the majority of items on sale being locally made craft work and said how important it was that an Association was being formed to promote the market and look after the interests of the stand-holders.

The market now has over 40 members (some are pictured in the photo above) with a diverse range of arts and crafts on display. Needless to say, the members are all upbeat about the beginning of the season and constantly coming up with new ideas about products to display.

Over the past seasons, passengers from the cruise ships have been telling us that when they come to the Bonaire Cruise Market they find a unique experience.

In the Bonaire market, they discover that the majority of items are made on Bonaire by local artists and craft-workers, while on most of the other islands they can only find the same mass-produced souvenirs each time.

For a small island, Bonaire has a surprising number of creative people and many of them attend the Art and Craft market for every ship throughout the season. At the market you can find examples of Driftwood art, Jewelry, Ceramics, Glass work, Clothing, Local music, Oil painting, Water colors, Photographs and many more. You can also refresh yourself with a variety of food and drinks.

The market is generally open through the time a ship is at dock, finishing at 6pm if ships are staying later than that.

This season we are also re-introducing the Friday market, which is popular with non-cruise tourists, many of whom are divers. Often they are flying home on Saturday, so cannot dive on Friday and take the opportunity to visit the market. **When there is no ship on a Friday, the market will be open from 9am to 2pm. The Friday Market will also continue after the cruise season ends in May.**

For more information about the Art and Craft Association and the markets, please contact Mira Mann, Tel 786-3919, Email: [mira.bonbinimann@gmail.com](mailto:mira.bonbinimann@gmail.com) . ■ Press release

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## Stichting Project Fundraiser



**The place to be on Tuesday evening, December 14, at 7 pm (19.00) is at "Les Restaurant De Bonairiaan"** on Kaya J.A. Abraham, up the street from the Divi Hotel. The award-winning social program, Stichting Project, is hoping the special dinner will draw supporters and sponsors. The profits of this evening will benefit the activities of Stichting Project. The youngsters participating in the Project will voluntarily dedicate themselves that evening for you to enjoy the typical quality of Les-restaurant 'de Bonairiaan'. The chef and the youngsters will prepare an exclusive four-course meal and provide you with drinks before and during dinner and coffee and sweets after. The youngsters will make sure you have everything you desire.


Besides attending yourself, this is also a perfect chance to honor your employees and clients with a special dinner. The price for the evening will be NAf 125,00 all inclusive, per person (of course it is also possible to donate a higher amount for the dinner) and there will be a maximum of 60 participants accepted. During the dinner more information will be given about Stichting Project. *The Reporter* will be there. Join us and Mick Schmit and his kids. Those interested can make reservations at Les restaurant "de Bonairiaan". Or call Phone: 717-6921 / 786-6816 E-mail: [stichtingproject@flamingotv.net](mailto:stichtingproject@flamingotv.net) [www.stichtingproject.com](http://www.stichtingproject.com) **Hope to see you that night at Les Restaurant De Bonairiaan. ■ G.D.**





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# Letters to the Editor

## WHY WAS THE LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONTRACT AWARDED TO A COMPANY WITH NO EXPERIENCE OUTSIDE SOUTH-WESTERN NETHERLANDS?

Dear Editor:

In 2009, the Bonaire Executive Council awarded a contract for making a Bonaire Land Development Plan to the Dutch consulting company, RBOI, based in Rotterdam and Middelburg. Against all regulations, no public tenders were invited for this important project because the contract would certainly be given to one of the large Dutch consulting companies with an ample experience abroad.

It seems unbelievable but RBOI has never worked abroad and it had, therefore, no experience with making a land development plan for an island in the Caribbean, having as its main asset the famous coral reef. Nevertheless, this seemed to be no problem for the Executive Council. In my opinion, an investigation must come to answer the crucial question under what circumstances RBOI got the contract for this utmost important plan for the future of Bonaire.

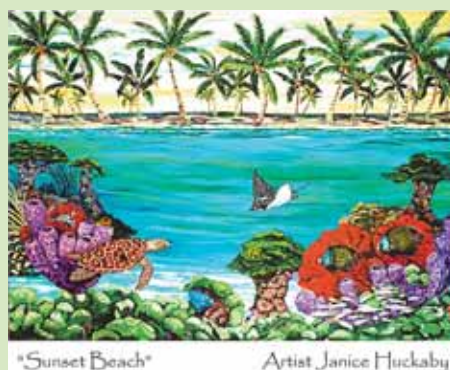
The main activities of RBOI have been indeed to prepare development plans for a large number of municipalities in the south-western part of the Netherlands. On its website, RBOI has recently stated that the most important factor during elaboration of this plan for our island was to link it up with the identity and special values of Bonaire (!?!). You would therefore expect that the company, without any knowledge of the local circumstances, which are completely different from the situation in Dutch municipalities, would base its plan on the recommendations of the Pourier Report. Unfortunately, that has not been the case. Although RBOI did mention this report in the introduction to the Strategic Evaluation of the Development Plan and also pleads for the protection of the coral reef and the salinas, it not only completely ignores the principal recommendations of the Pourier Report but goes directly against them. It is also evident that the consultants, without any experience in the field of the protection of coral reefs, have known absolutely nothing about all the earlier mentioned scientific studies showing that the coastal development in the Caribbean is a mortal danger to coral reefs. **Therefore, you will not find in the RBOI plan of 420 pages any recommendation of the prohibition of new construction along the coast or any ad-**

vice to complete the construction of the Esmeralda hotel before building a new hotel elsewhere (otherwise, this eyesore must be demolished).

Probably under pressure of the Bonaire Executive Council, the RBOI's plan advocates the necessity of a development of the island to accommodate the growing number of inhabitants which, according to the plan, will reach 25,000 in the coming 10 years. About 3,000 new homes are planned to be built for this purpose and new industrial plants and hotels will be constructed. After working during one year on the Land Development Plan, RBOI submitted it to the Executive Council which has approved it in October 2010. **It is very sad to conclude that by this unwise approval the fate of the Bonaire coral reef has been definitely sealed....**

Jiri Lausman

## THE PHU MAKES A CORRECTION



In an email to *The Reporter*, Michiel Bijkerk, on behalf of the new Partido pro Hustisia & Union (PHU-Party for Justice and Union) corrected a misrepresentation of the position of *The Bonaire Reporter* as regards the construction of any hotel at the Playa Lechi (Sunset Beach) site. In a recent PHU press release *The Reporter* was quoted as writing that the pro-beach environmental group was against the construction of any hotel at the Playa Lechi site.

He corrected it to reflect that *The Bonaire Reporter* only cautioned against the construction of a **large** hotel. This rectification does not mean that the PHU party has adopted the environmental group's position, wrote Bijkerk. "We have not yet made up our minds about that, certainly not in such detail. But clearly our positions are moving towards each other." ■ G.D.

# Seventh Study & Career Fair

Marian Walthie photo



Last Saturday, November 13, Celia Fernandes Pedra, the founder of Stichting Ban Bonaire Bèk, opened the 7th Study and Career Fair at the Sporthall on Kaya Amsterdam. About 520 people registered at the door. The fair was not only a success because of the large number of visitors but also because of the many and very interesting stands and exhibits. Representatives of schools and businesses came from Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire as well as from universities in The Netherlands. Fundashon Mariadal, which won the first prize for their stand last year, again had a lot

of visitors who were attracted by all kind of practical appliances. Visitors could have their blood pressure taken and try out the "body lift."

Thanks to the members of Ban Bonaire Bèk for offering such a worthwhile and important event for the youngsters of Bonaire. ■

Marian Walthie/  
L.D.



## Picture Yourself With The Reporter In... Rocky Mountains, New Mexico



Bonaire residents Walt & Lynne Bentsen along with former residents Ernie & Marie Franke are taking a reading break while llama trekking in the southern Rocky Mountains of New Mexico. ■

**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](mailto:info@bonairereporter.com).

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### Reef Windows

Opening Bonaire's Dive Sites

Reef Windows  
Opening Bonaire's Dive Sites

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

Travel back to the exciting, early days of Bonaire diving. To make you part of these adventures, I have included my Captain Don red ribbon depth gauge as a handy bookmark. Come diving with me and learn the true stories behind the names of Bonaire's dive sites.



**Flotsam and Jetsam** (Continued from page 2) control you can really have is killing the mosquitoes and making sure they're not there to transmit the virus in the first place.

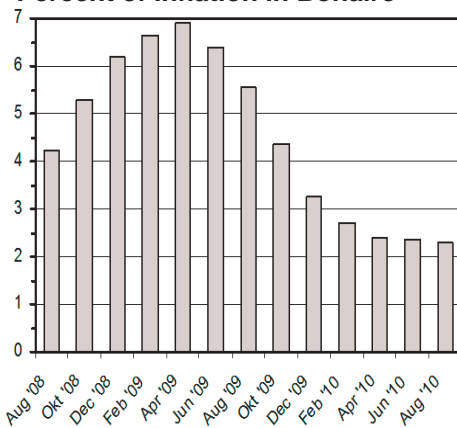
Reducing Bonaire's mosquito population has two strategies: removing breeding sites and fogging.

However, considering the relative ineffectiveness of fogging and the environmental harm it does, emphasis must be on eliminating mosquito breeding places and disrupting the life cycle of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

**Homeowners, businesses and building contractors are strongly advised to make sure there is no stagnant water in yards and roof spouts, to dispose of old tires, empty drums, buckets, jars, birdbaths, boats, plant containers, paint cans and other items that can collect water around their buildings.** Wear appropriate clothing and apply mosquito repellent.

Dengue symptoms include high fever, severe headache, backache, joint and eye pain, nausea and vomiting and a rash. Once a person has developed a fever, the infectious period lasts for about a week. Most people recover without any complications, using non-aspirin pain relievers and rest.

### Percent of Inflation in Bonaire



► According to data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), **Bonaire Consumer prices in August 2010 rose 0.3% in three months.** Measured over the period of 12 months to August 2010, prices were up 2.3% over the same period a year earlier.

Spending categories that have become more expensive include Beverages and Tobacco (+0.8%), followed by Transport and Communications (+0.7%), Recreation, Development and Education (+0.4%), Others (0.4%), Housing (+0.3%) and Food (+0.1%). The three largest expenditure categories in the consumer basket, namely Food, Housing and Transport and Communications were all more expensive in August.

Local fish-Mula, Dradu, and Buni- have become substantially more expensive, 15%.

This is the third substantial change in price of local fish this year.

In the Transport and Communications category wireless Internet and mobile phones rose +12% and +20%.

The rising cost of expenditure category Recreation, Education and Development is mainly due to the price of compact discs (CDs) with 14%, becoming part of the recreational use category was 0.8% higher.

Cheaper expenditure categories were Clothing and Footwear (-0.9%) and Health Care (-0.4%). The cheapening of the former category of expenditure was mainly due to the decrease in prices of women's lingerie (-14%), men's shirts (-13%) and ladies skirts, trousers and slacks (-3%).

► On Monday, December 27, Leo Hoogenboom and Felix Faassen will **raise money for STINAPA and Sea Turtle Conservation (STCB) by diving around the island Klein Bonaire in one single dive.** This way they would like to raise awareness for the conservation of Bonaire's nature and animals so that people of Bonaire and abroad can continue enjoy this unique eco system now and in the future.

The dive is more than 10 km. long and will take the divers around 12 hours to complete depending on weather conditions. During the dive, the team will be supported by a surface support team. The event will be filmed and photographed. The event is officially sponsored by Captain Don's Habitat. Visit the official website: <http://www.ecodivebonaire.com>



► On November 4 a **Taxi Stand was set up on the south pier** as a "taxi headquarters" to offer cruise ship visitors information and taxi transportation and tours. In addition when all taxis are busy with early morning tours cruise ship tourists may book ahead for when the taxis return.

► Continuing a tradition started five years ago, long-time Bonaire residents Linda and Jake Richter **announced their 2011 Richter Art Calendar featuring 12 new images with a distinctly Bonairean and tropical theme.** The calendars are a handy and port-

► **The CIEE Lionfish Research Team reports that to date, 596 lionfish have been brought to CIEE for study.** From the data that we have analyzed so far, it appears that the diet of lionfish changes as they grow. They start eating more fish and less shrimp and other crustaceans. The smallest fish brought in to CIEE is 2.1 cm (0.8 in) and the largest is 58.8 cm (23.1 in). We have 173 fish that measure 2.1 to 10 cm, 238 that measure 10.1 to 20 cm, 129 that measure 20.1 to 30 cm, 7 that are between 30.1 and 40 cm and only one that is more than 40 cm. To increase the understanding of large lionfish on the reef fish in Bonaire, we need more large fish for our collection. However, we will accept fish of all sizes.



Herman van Leeuw photo

Additionally, they are in need of corks and glass jars (of any size with lids). If you have any, you can drop them off during the week at the CIEE Research Station during the day (8:30 am - 5:30 pm and sometimes between 8 pm - 10 pm. Or you can call 786-7394 and they will meet you to pick up your fish.



Pelicans on Pilings by Jake Richter

able 6x6 inches, unfolding out to 6x12 inches. The calendar includes six different images of Linda Richter's oil paintings and Jake Richter's six of Bonairean architecture, people, and wildlife, in a combination of photography and digital painting.

The 2011 Richter Art Calendar is available at the Richter Art Gallery in Belnem (special holiday shopping hours, every Sunday between now and Christmas, opening from 11am to 5pm - phone 717-4112) or on-line at <http://www.CaribbeanArt.com> for \$6.95. More information as well as images of the calendar can be found at <http://www.BonaireCalendar.com>.



Grandi #61, this

Special November action! **If you buy a new bicycle at De Freewieler, Kaya month, you will get a SIGMA bike computer for free!**

► Back in stock at Antillean Wine Company is that **great Bonaire French champagne** and the excellent wines from **Podere la Chiesa, Tuscany, like "Sabiniano."** Also **Lambrusco** in regular and 1.5 litre bottles.

G./L. D.

**Ombudsman** (Continued from page 3)

He said that an Ombudsman does not have **power** but does have **authority**.

After some time, the public started bombing the Ombudsman with hot questions. He said that he got the feeling that there was not enough trust in this new trial.

Many people who attended this meeting felt that not having an office on the island would be a big obstacle for many local people. Others were quite sceptical about what they might expect from an Ombudsman who lives in Holland.

Governor Glenn Thodé was at this meeting and helped explain. He said, "We do realize that the local people communicate in a different way. But this new process needs time and if we do not have trust in it, it will surely fail." In any case the national Ombudsman handles only national problems. The decision whether to name an Ombudsman for local problems will take up to two

### Sudoku Solution

Puzzle on page 7

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

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**BonQuiz Answer**

Bon Quiz (from page 7)

Questions:  
A) Where is the other soiree structure?  
B) What is it called in Papiamentu?

Answer  
A) North of the church in Playa.  
B) Kiosko

# Pet of the Week

A familiar sight at the Bonaire Animal Shelter is a volunteer having a one-to-one experience with one of the pets. Often the pet is getting groomed or checked for ticks or played with, all part of the care and socialization process that makes the dogs and cats such good candidates for adoption. Our pet this week is "Charlene," getting special attention from volunteer Heleen. Both seem to be having a good time.

Not only is Charlene such a foxy looking cute dog but she one of the most self confident pets at the Shelter. She knows what she wants. If there is a problem with the other younger dogs she jumps in and settles things. The others look up to her. She was brought into the Shelter in August and is about nine months now, still a youngster but with an old wise way about her. Of course as are all the pets up for adoption Charlene has had her exam by the vet, her shots, worming, testing and sterilization. The adoption fee for dogs is now NAf 125. That includes all of the above plus an ID chip which the vet inserts so that



"Charleen" with volunteer Heleen

the dog is eligible for travel. You may visit the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and from 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Website: [www.BonaireAnimalShelter.com](http://www.BonaireAnimalShelter.com). ■

Laura DeSalvo

## Animal Shelter News

The Book and Flea Market on November 6 was outstanding. Crowds thronged the Shelter and the proceeds were NAf 3.500! This amount will go towards keeping the Shelter open for homeless cats and dogs on the island. Heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who helped put it together and man it, the generous people who donated the books and things and the buyers. It was a very profitable and satisfying day despite the rain shower that threatened to shut it down. And there were a total of eight adoptions during the day: two kittens and six dogs.

As of November 11 there were a total of 180 adoptions from the Shelter this year so far. Pretty amazing but not when you consider that people are getting fine, healthy and social animals.

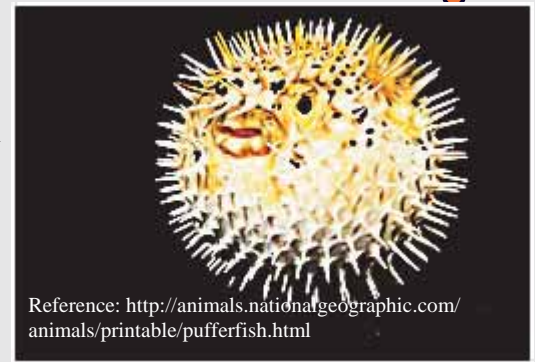
Don't forget - Put it on your calendar now. On Saturday, December 11 at 7 pm there will be an Animal Shelter Fundraising Auction at Eddy's at Sand Dollar Resort. The auction is open to all - free entrance. We were assured that this year the emphasis will be on fun -with exciting prizes and surprises and even a lottery. Some of the prizes include an airplane flight around the island, a one-year contract to Bon Bida Spa, a tee shirt with soccer star Luis Suarez' signature, art pieces and an opportunity to feature your pet in The Reporter's "Pet of the Week" column. There will be a cash bar as well. ■ Laura DeSalvo



## Bubbles From the Biologist

### Did You Know?...

There are over 120 species of puffer fish worldwide? Most are found in tropical and subtropical waters of the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Using their beaks, composed of four tightly fused teeth, they feed upon invertebrates, algae, clams, shrimps, and crabs. Puffer fish are known for their poisonous spines and ability to "puff" up when threatened. But why? Puffer fish are poor swimmers to begin with, therefore, they have developed the ability to ingest large amounts of water in only a few seconds to turn themselves into a ball several times their normal size in order to discourage predators. Some species have spines to make them even more unappetizing. If only the predator knew...the tetrodotoxin present in the spines of the puffer fish is over 1200 times more poisonous than cyanide. One puffer fish contains enough of this to kill over 30 humans. No wonder Japanese restaurants require licensed, professional chefs to prepare their puffer fish delicacy,

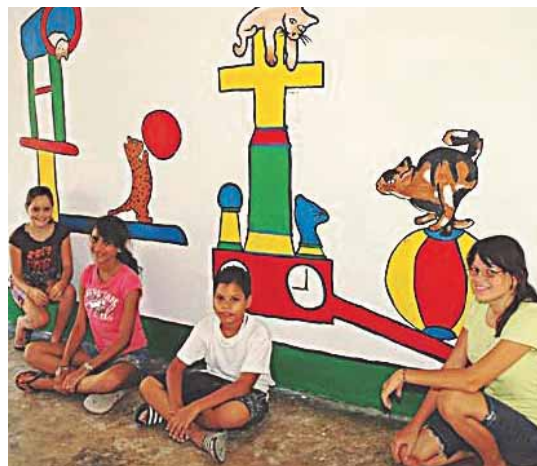


Reference: <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/printable/pufferfish.html>

fugu. One wrong cut would guarantee the death of a customer. So much for getting a tip...

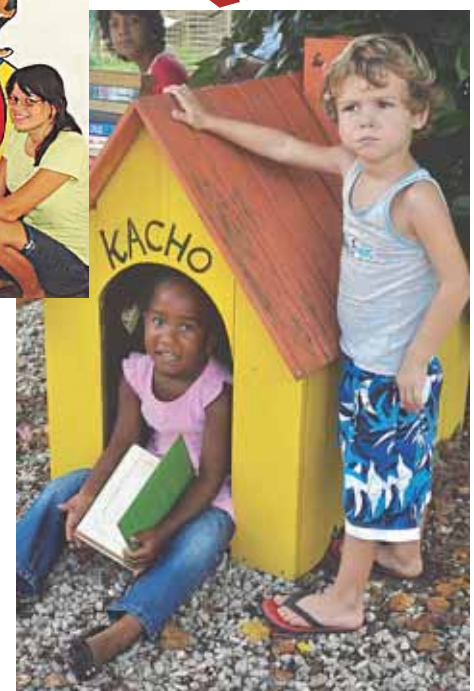
Kids, PLEASE don't touch the puffer fish. ■ Alex Gulick

Gulick is a junior at Oregon State University majoring in marine biology and is studying with CIEE as a part of the tropical marine ecology and conservation program for fall 2010.



At the Cat Condo

The JanArt Kids art class spent many hours putting together a plan for the new Cat Condo wall mural at the Animal Shelter. Please go by to see their finished painting and meet all the kitty residents. Artists: Kimberly Ram, Rouel Domacassé, Julia Martines, Yonne Latiers. Their art instructor was Janice Huckaby from the JanArt Gallery. The paint was donated by Krioyo Paint. A Great Job Well Done! Press release



Two young visitors at the Shelter Book Fair found themselves a special place

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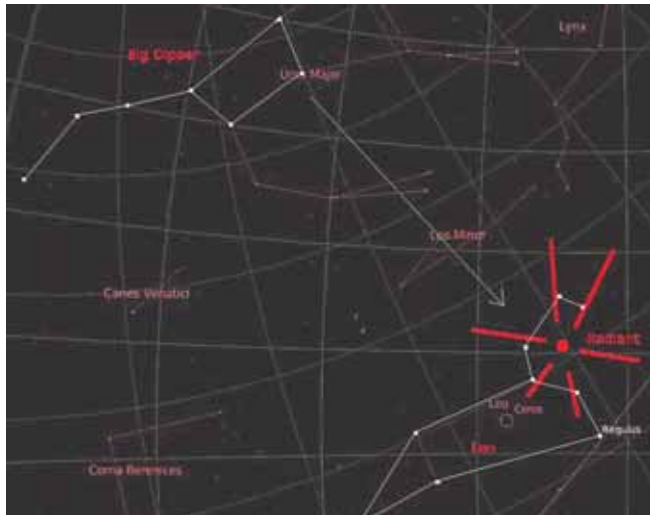
\*to find it... just look up

## Leonid Meteor Shower—Read This First

Every November we are treated to a meteor shower, which appears to originate from **Leo the Lion**. It will happen about the same time that *The Reporter* is on the street. There'll be no moonlight to interfere if you wait until the **Moon** sets around 2 to 3 am, **Wednesday morning November 17**. So if you get far enough away from lights and it's clear out you should be able to catch quite a few.

Very early this Wednesday morning, November 17th, face east where half way up from the horizon you'll see the bright stars which make up the **constellation Leo the Lion**. The front part of Leo is marked by stars, which trace out a sickle shape or backwards question mark and Leo's rear is marked by three stars, which form a triangle. The bright star at the bottom of the sickle is the heart star of Leo, the bright blue **Regulus**. And this year you may see a bright light down to the left of Leo which isn't always there, **Planet #6, ringed Saturn**.

Now every November on the nights of the **Leonid meteor shower** bright streaks of light which we call meteors flash across the sky and appear to come from a spot within Leo's sickle. But it's all an optical illusion because the meteors are millions of times closer than the stars of Leo. "But where do these specks come from?" you ask. Well, most meteors are caused by **comet litter**. You see, meteors are tiny bits of comet debris that slam into our **Earth's** atmosphere so fast that they incinerate and cause gasses in our Earth's atmosphere to briefly light up, kind of like the gasses in a neon tube. There have been several spectacular storm periods recorded and one of the most famous was the **storm of 1833 when an estimated 200,000 meteors per hour** were seen by startled witnesses who described the stars "falling like rain."



You see every time any **comet** visits our **Sun** it sheds some of its tail and leaves a trail of debris in its orbit. And if our Earth happens to pass through this stream of debris as it orbits the Sun we'll get a meteor shower. If the comet's path and the Earth's path do not intersect we're out of luck.

But every November our Earth plows right through **comet Tempel-Tuttle's littered orbital pathway** so that many specks of debris from Tempel-Tuttle slam into our Earth's atmosphere and make the trails of light that we call the Leonid meteors. Every time comet Tempel-Tuttle visits our Sun it sheds some of its tail and leaves a trail of debris all along its orbit. So after hundreds of years and dozens of passages Tempel-Tuttle's orbit has become filled with tiny specks of comet debris.

**You can expect to see 15 to 20 meteors per hour if you follow the rules for optimum viewing.** Start watching about 3 am, with your feet pointing east. Then slowly scan the sky back and forth for at least an hour and you should see a few bright ones. You'll have a better chance to see more bright ones about **an hour before sunrise** because that's when Leo will be almost overhead. Patience is required. And remember not to use a telescope or binoculars. ■ *Chris Trigg*



November

2010



**Aries March 20 - April 19** -You're dynamic and you like to get things done. You try to be patient and work on your strategy but that's not really your strongest point. You prefer to tackle whatever needs doing immediately it comes to your attention and you'd rather deal with anything that looks this way as swiftly as you can. The halting and sluggish atmosphere of the past few months has not suited you at all, but November promises better with several planets resuming forward motion after a retrograde cycle dating back even so far as May.

**Taurus April 20 - May 20** -During November, you'll continue with the tasks that you've set yourself. It's a slow process and takes a persistent and determined effort, but at least you will notice some reduction in the number of obstacles you've been facing. This enables you to stand back momentarily and to assess the progress you have made.

**Gemini May 21 - June 20** -Romance is emphasized in your horoscope this month, but it's a serious business and you have important goals in mind, so the atmosphere is far from frivolous. This doesn't mean you won't have fun, but you're not inclined to waste energy on anything or anyone you fear doesn't have a future. You have too much on your plate, there are a zillion things you are trying to achieve and so many other demands making inroads into your leisure time.

**Cancer June 21 - July 22** -Cosmic trends highlight the other people in your life. You may wish you had more control, but the upshot is also valuable for you personally and continues the process of transformation you are undergoing. Powerful trends in your closest relationships and your love life in particular, bring elements of your psychology with their origins in the past to the forefront of your attention.

**Leo July 23 - August 22** -There is a jazz song that was revived and tweaked in the 1980s, entitled something along the lines of "T'ain't What You Do (It's the Way That You Do It)." The lyrics are intriguing and you might think on how they could apply to your current situation. It probably sounds cynical but it's simply a fact, that likeable people get greater latitude from others, than someone who is hard-working and efficient, but who comes over

**Virgo August 23 - September 22** -Success in the outside world is one thing, but many believe what goes on at home is more significant. The people you are in contact with every day, your siblings for instance, parents, kids and especially your partner have the potential to make or break you elsewhere, by supporting and encouraging whatever you are aiming towards or alternatively by steadily undermining your aspirations.

**Libra September 23 - October 22** - Retrograde motion occurs when the Earth overtakes a slower moving planet in its path around the Sun, or when Mercury and Venus the planets that orbit most quickly, pass by us in turn. Venus is your ruler and has a special significance, turning retrograde five times every eight years for around six weeks each time. One of these cycles began last month and on November 8, Venus returns to your constellation for a bonus visit lasting through to the end of the month.

**Scorpio October 23 - November 21** -Venus, during its retrograde cycle, ducks out of your constellation for the bulk of November and won't return until the very final day. Within hours of Venus deserting you, Mercury leaves for Sagittarius to be joined by the Sun two weeks later. This means of the three planets that start the month in your sign and see their numbers rise to four around the Scorpio new moon, none are left during the fourth week, leaving you with some serious thinking to do.

**Sagittarius November 22 - December 21** - Finally November brings good news, after the difficulties that have confronted you previously. So at first Mars, then the Moon, then Mercury and finally the Sun gradually concede that it's your turn for a cosmic break, you'll notice your confidence and vitality starting to improve and that grounds for discussion exist now, where previously there were none.

**Capricorn December 22 - January 19** -It appears contradictory when you're so caught up with other people, but the impetus that drives current trends highlights you personally. Somebody might notice your social obligations, your commitment to the community, your career responsibilities and your dutiful approach to friends and relatives, but what lies beneath the surface is more intriguing.

**Aquarius January 20 - February 18** -Jupiter moves forward in your financial sector, having turned retrograde four months ago. You've sensed a new enthusiasm for getting to grips with your fiscal situation since the recent equinox, especially if you have a say in how you earn your living and the importance you attach to material returns. Whatever happens, the decisions you make won't be what anybody else would choose.

**Pisces February 19 - March 19** -Planets accumulating towards the apex of your horoscope, encourage you to think about yourself for a change and where you're heading in your own right. It is hard to remember, but you also had dreams and aspirations, before you became so caught up in other people's issues and your attempts to escape from their negative and detrimental effect on you. ■

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