

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE December 3-17, 2010, Year 17, Issue 23
The REPORTER
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Sanikolas Arrives
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en Español en la página 20



Acting Bonaire Governor Elvis Tjin Asjoe greets a damp Sanikolas upon his arrival at the Sport Hall on a rainy Saturday, November 27. Swarte Piet is happy to help.

RECTIFICATION:

The voting-rights part of the story in the last edition of *The Bonaire Reporter* about the upcoming Referendum story was wrong. *The Reporter* said non-Dutch citizens, legal Bonaire residents, meeting certain guidelines, could vote in the upcoming Referendum.



However, the Referendum Commission during the initial press conference announced it was decided that **only Dutch citizens could vote on December 17**. Their decision was based on the Dutch Parliament's recent ruling that only Dutch citizens can vote in BES Island elections, even though foreign resident, non-Dutch citizens are allowed to vote in European Dutch local elections.

Critics focused on this as interference by the "mother country," a practice discouraged by UN colonialism guidelines. They emphasize that the December 17 Referendum is not an election, it is an inquiry to sample the opinion of Bonairean residents. The Bonaire Island Council had already decided to let foreigners with "Antillean Rights" vote.

But the Referendum Commission overruled that. Referendum President Douwe Boersema confirmed that **only Dutch citizens can vote in the Referendum**.

Disenfranchised were longtime legal residents of Bonaire who are citizens of other countries.

► All three political parties on Saba have expressed their support of a legal action filed by Bonaire attorney **Michiel Bijkerk in favor of allowing voting rights in island elections to foreign nationals with five years of residency** on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. The Windward Island People's Movement (WIPM) Party, the Saba Labor Party (SPL) and the Saba Democratic Party are all in support of Bijkerk's test case, challenging the current prohibition.

The lawsuit originates from a

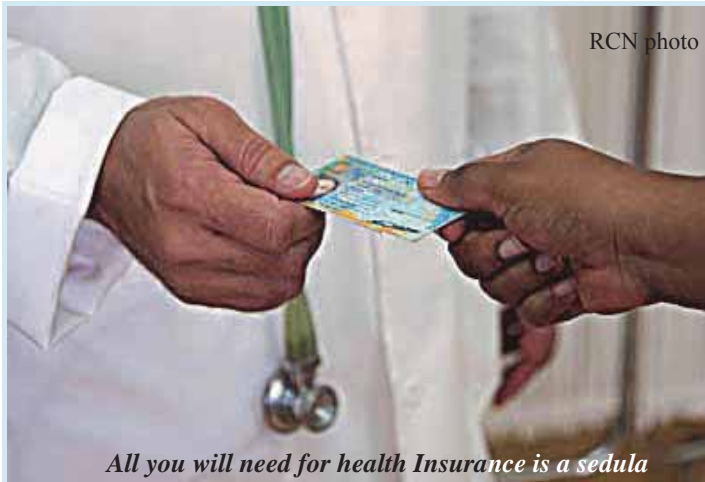
decision of the Second Chamber of Dutch Parliament that reversed the stipulation agreed upon by all three islands allowing foreign nationals with five years of residency the right to vote in local elections.

"In the WolBES [changes in Dutch law for the BES islands] and voting laws it was stated that foreigners who had been residing on the island for over five years would have the right to vote," Saba Commission of Constitutional Affairs and WIPM party leader Chris Johnson said. "At first, we didn't actually want [voting rights for foreigners]," Johnson said. "We said that because we were not used to this. Holland was the one that said, 'No, this is the way it's done in Dutch municipalities, and it should be done for the islands. But when it went to the Second Chamber, they actually turned it back and said that only Dutch nationals here would be able to vote.'"

Officials from Bonaire, Statia and Saba had agreed to the proposals allowing foreign nationals with five years of residency the right to vote in local elections prior to the constitutional transition of 10-10-10 that saw the islands become special public municipalities of Holland.



► **UPB Commissioner Elvis Tjin Asjoe (above, on right) was appointed acting Lt. Governor of Bonaire** after he had been screened according to article 91 of



RCN photo

All you will need for health insurance is a sedula

► **On Sunday, the RCN released the decision of the Dutch Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport about the content of the health insurance package for the BES Islands that will become effective on January 1, 2011. All legal residents or workers on the islands will be covered.** The *sedula* (ID card) will be the form of identification.

After that date all other health insurance such as SVB, BOD, PP and the private insurance policies will lapse.

Starting this week the RCN Health Insurance Office begins an intensive campaign on the three islands to inform the population about the new system of medical care and treatment. The information campaign, called "I'm Sure," will not only focus on the contents of the package but also what every citizen should do in order to receive medical care.

The insurance package includes among other things, general practitioner and specialist medical care, hospital care, paramedical care, dental care, pharmaceutical care, aids care, obstetric

care, patient transport, repatriation expenses of the deceased, audiology center help, genetic counseling assistance, dialysis, chronic respiratory problems, rehabilitation care, laboratory and radiological treatment, long term care and other medical programs.

After December 13, there will be an information leaflet available with details on the content of the health insurance package. The RCN is translating these documents from Dutch into Papiamentu and English and must be take into account with complex terminology. If you need information before the brochure is ready visit the health insurance section at website: www.RijksdienstCN.com where this document can be found. You can also call the RCN free information line at 08008-101010 or by sending an e-mail to info@RijksdienstCN.com and they will send you the digital document. A copy of the document is also available in Dutch on the RCN center counter. Information will also be offered to the community through the newspapers, radio and television.

the Law Public Bodies. Tjin Asjoe, who is not a member of the Island Council, was administered the oath of office by Lt. Governor Glenn Thodé (left).

► **THE HAGUE--School authorities in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba are not**

allowed to force pregnant teenage girls from school, Dutch Minister of Education, Culture and Science Marja van Bijsterveldt-Vliegthart told the Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber earlier this week. The Minister stated this in response

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Highlighting Giant XTC 0

Editorial REFERENDUM OVERVIEW New Public Prosecutor

It may not be obvious but voters have three choices in the upcoming Bonaire Referendum:



- 1-NOT FOR ME
- 2-YES
- 3-NO

Voters will be deciding on the following statement:

"I agree with Bonaire becoming a public entity to conform to Art. 134 of the Dutch constitution."

Simply put, a **YES** means that the voter is satisfied with the present arrangement negotiated with the government of The Netherlands. He or she likes the education, medical, social, cultural and other changes the Dutch are doing and planning.

A **NO** means that he or she wants a different government/state structure of the island or renegotiation of the terms of the current agreement. No structure has to be specified, be it complete independence or a "normal" rather than "special" municipal relationship with Holland.

A voter can effectively say the Referendum is **NOT FOR ME** by simply not voting. If fewer than 50% of the eligible voters vote then the Referendum is nullified.

Regardless of the vote, the outcome is not legally binding on The Netherlands or local government, although emotionally and morally it can be significant.

Under UN post-colonialism guidelines the "Mother Country" is forbidden to interfere or influence the

results. However, it appears that the Dutch parliament, by forbidding Referendum voting rights to non-Dutch citizens granted earlier by the Bonaire Island Council, may have done just that.

The forces for **NO** are led by the organization that has pushed for a meaningful Referendum for years, *Awor T E'Ora* (Now Is The Time). At the heart of their argument is the fact that the Bonairean are not getting the form of "direct ties" with The Netherlands that they chose in the 2004 Referendum. Instead, they are getting integration. And that integration is not on a par with what European Dutch municipalities have.

Up until now the forces for **YES** have been less vocal. The current majority party in government negotiated the present agreement, and the opposition party signed the accord with the Dutch earlier this year. The improvements in health care, social benefits and education provided by the direct Dutch tie are already visible and will increase in 2011. A **YES** vote will confirm to the Dutch government that their support is appreciated.

The new *Partido pro Hustisia & Union* (Party for Justice and Union) is against conducting a Referendum at this time. It calls the upcoming Referendum a poison that has already caused two governments to collapse. They are advising citizens to **boycott the Referendum**. It would send a message of the people's disgust with local political antics to island officials and be inoffensive to the aid-providing Dutch.

"Built-in" to the present agreement is a structural re-evaluation in five years. And local elections coming in **March 2011** will see new political parties and give voters a chance to select officials who support their views. ■ G.D.

See more on the Referendum in this issue.



New BES Island Prosecutor David van Delft and new Bonaire Prosecutor Justine Gonggrijp

"Maybe I'll come back as the 'new Ernst Wesselius (then Bonaire Prosecutor). You never know!" were the final words in a 2005 *Reporter* story by Greta Kooistra about Justine Gonggrijp and Jeroen Beumer.



2005 Reporter photo of Justine Gonggrijp and Jeroen Beumer

Last week the words proved prophetic as Justine Beumer Gonggrijp took the oath as Prosecutor of Bonaire at the office of the RCN (Kingdom Service Caribbean).

She replaces the outgoing Bonaire prosecutor, now head of the Prosecutor's Office for all BES Islands, David van Delft. ■ G.D.



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On the Island Since... November 1998 - Aletta van Beeck

At the end of the day I arrive at the kunuku and the sky breaks open; the sun does her miracle work and I feel I am just an inch away from paradise... The land is lush; the maishi chikitu standing up proud, showing off her thick green leaves. Dragon flies are wavering over the high grass with diamond wings. There are a hundred goats, spreading their distinguished musky smell. They're playing, resting, ruminating. It's as peaceful as can be - an image of long forgotten days when everything in life had a simple but definite purpose.

Then Aletta takes her herd into the corrals for the night while the sun goes down behind the hills. We walk back to the house and start talking.

"In Amsterdam I was working as a physiotherapist, but soon enough I found out that it wasn't something I enjoyed doing in Holland. I had been traveling a

lot. I'd lived in Australia for eight months, I went to Thailand and I had been to Mongolia, participating in the Camel Trophy. After that I was thinking, 'if this was possible, the 'unreachable' will be possible too.' So, when I was offered the opportunity to work for Bon Fysio, I came to Bonaire. I stayed for eight and a half years with Bon Fysio.

On Bonaire I liked being a physiotherapist; it was great to be working in another culture with the local people. People here handle their complaints in a different way too. For instance, if I asked someone who was having back problems, 'How are you today?' they would answer 'Fine!' And what about your back? 'Yeah, okay, my back is hurting, but I am feeling fine!'" *She laughs.* "It makes a big difference, because the client is not 'the complaint.'

From the very first day I felt at home - more than I'd ever felt at

home in Holland. Last year, when **Bdi Antoin** did an interview with me for TV in *Awe ku Ayera*, he gave me the most beautiful compliment; he told me that I had integrated really well and that I spoke good Papiamentu!

In 2004 - I was living in Mexico (a section of Bonaire) - I started keeping goats. It began as a hobby which I did with **Simone Sweets** from Bon Fysio. We'd bought 11 goats, Simone did the cheese and I took care of the goats." *She laughs out loud.* "11 goats... ayayay! I wish I still had 11. Where did it go wrong? Well, one day Simone called it quits and I wasn't ready for the job yet..."

Before 2004 I had traveled frequently - to Ecuador and Peru, to Venezuela and also to Costa Rica. In Costa Rica I worked on a farm and it was there that I learned to milk goats. I liked the way of living - back to the basics and self supporting. So, I wasn't willing to give up the idea entirely. I did keep the goats because I had the feeling I was going to do something with them eventually.

In 2008 I stopped working for Bon Fysio and I started farming officially. I had bought a kunuku at *Tras di Montana* with the idea

that one day I would make my dream come true. For years I'd been busy trying to work it out... on paper. It was a very big pink cloud - but I fell off it - really hard and really fast! It wasn't the romantic image of 'little house on the prairie!' It was just plain hard work!

I remember sitting under a tree with a cup of coffee and 40 goats around me, overlooking the wilderness of my land, thinking, 'Where shall I start?'

Margon Muller helped me in many ways to get things going, and when it came to the point where I was ready to make the cheese, I found out I couldn't do it at the kunuku because I didn't



Aletta milking her goats

have the money for a generator, so... no electricity for the cooling. I had to find a location in town. **Jan Ockhuijzen** offered me a room in his house - for free - how sweet was that! It was

(Continued on page 5)

"...all this ...has been done by people who have been gracious and kind - people who have helped me in every possible way..."

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ON THE Island Since (Continued from pg. 4)

supposed to be for three months, but," she whispers, "it became two years. I am so glad we're still friends. Without him I wouldn't be anywhere right now.

For the last year I've been making cheese at the kunuku and it's gone fast ever since. You know," she looks at me, "for some reason little angels come falling out of the heavens every time I need them. I get help from all kinds of people - Bonairean and Dutch - old and young, but mostly people over 60 like **Felipe Angela, Buchi Frans** and **Victor Emerenciana**. My neighbor **Mingie Boezem** has been a great help and so has **Marijke van de Brink** whom I call 'The Cactus Queen.' She comes to clean the kunuku of tuna cacti every week.

Then there's **Felicia Schutte** who designed my logo and made my website and **Richard Burger**, my technical man, who has always been there for me and helped me for free with all my electrical problems and **Maximi Chirino**, my airco angel.

Our **mom and dad**, as we say where I come from, have come every year for three months since I started here on the farm and they have been of tremendous help. When they arrive they look a bit drab and grey and then they start flourishing. They become

stronger and more energetic and they start getting a tan. Of course I am saying this to make up for the slavery, because they work like mules. But by the time they leave they look at least 10 years younger and both of them are in their 70s and they have no farming background!

Win Emerenciana from Punta Blancu saved my farm twice by helping me. When my goats weren't giving any milk because the Billy goat didn't do his job, he told me to milk his goats and use the milk to make the cheese. That was something priceless. I wouldn't exist anymore if it wasn't for his help. And his chicken poop makes a great fertilizer!

The people who helped me to deal with my financial difficulties are **Wouter** and **Bella Tuit**. They've offered me solutions and real help and because of them I could carry on.

Last year **Peter de Boer** came from Holland to work at the kunuku. In return I fed him and he slept here. He stayed for eight months and together with Richard Burger he set up the cheese room in the container. Last week Peter arrived again and I am expecting two more volunteers from Holland.

Lately, **Lida Dortmund** is helping me with the cheese making. She's my new 'cheese-girl' and a great support in many other ways. We get along fine.

I've been through many, many crises, but, I am still alive! There has been a time I felt I was only receiving and I felt guilty about it, but along the way I realized, and it was confirmed by the people who helped me, that because of this magnificent place and the things that are happening here

and because of what I am doing and who I am - people do feel they get something in return.

Well, at the moment it's like this. I have 4.5 hectares, 100 goats and a house. More and more people are buying the cheese at **Warehouse Bonaire** or it's being ordered at the restaurants. If you're eating local goat cheese - it's been made here! Step by step - the Bonairean way - we are getting there, but you have to have an awful lot of stamina and you have to be very stubborn!

It's a way of life I longed for - the old fashioned Bonairean kunuku life, but, you have to live and make money and so you have to think of something. For



Some of Aletta's special goats

me this is the way.

For my business I wanted a nice, good name and when I was at the funeral of this old Bonairean lady who had been one of my first clients at Bon Fysio, I felt very, very sad because people of that generation are slowly disappearing. But then the pastor said, 'Roro tabata un hende semper kontentu' (Roro was a person who was always content), and I thought, 'Isn't that beautiful when they say that when you're dead? I will make that my goal in life!' And so I named my business 'Semper Kontentu', because I want to be 'semper kontentu' - always content - every day.

And all this - everything you saw - has been done by people who have been gracious and kind - people who have helped me in every possible way - I've mentioned some, but it's impossible to mention them all - with manpower and financial and material donations. You wouldn't think it was possible, but it's true. I've been lucky. I wouldn't have made it without my people."

Info: www.wix.com/semperkontentu/goatcheese

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Story & photos by Greta

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BONAIREAN VOICES

FOCUS ON THE PRIZE



Siomara Albertus photo

Nadiniëla Coffie at her game in Bonaire We asked

We are in the 21st century, and at the end of year 2010 we are still arguing about which flag or organization our athletes belong to instead of focusing on the prize. In the past we had to make sure that we had a federation in which our athletes could represent our own country internationally. But that hasn't been done so today we have to cope with the situation and focus on the prize, the prize for real satisfaction and pride for being able to produce good sportsmen and athletes. Just as Curaçao has produced great sportsmen and athletes like Andrew Jones, Jair Jurgens, Hensley Meulens and Churendy Martina, so Bonaire has produced good sportsmen and athletes like Aneudys Albertina and Sharon Sumter. These are just some we can mention in our sports in Bonaire, in martial arts, soccer, baseball, softball, chess and more.

We have to remember how our athletes put their hearts and souls to work for their country, no matter which flag, anthem or federation. What matters is to participate, to have belief in yourself, to do your utmost and win.

A very young lady, only 13 years old, Miss Nadiniëla Coffie, a very experienced chess player, had the privilege of being part of the Dutch Antilles delegation - two ladies from Bonaire, two ladies from Curaçao and one substitute - to participate in a chess tournament in Russia held from September 20th to October 4 this year. Bonaire was selected by the International Chess Federation.

Miss Nadiniëla Coffie and her mother, Mrs Rudsela Coffie-Kroon, were the two ladies representing Bonaire. Both these well trained ladies participated in the Chess Olympics in Siberia, Russia, in the county of Khanty-Mansiysk. Participating were men's teams from 105 countries and women's teams from 90 countries, and every single lady played.

Nadiniëla what motivated her to be a chess player. She replied, "Since I was six years old my father, Mr. Ronald Coffie, has taught me how to play chess. I participated in many competitions and because my mother, Ruthsela Coffie-Kroon, knows Mr. Serapio Pop she took me to him for chess lessons, so today Mr. Pop is my teacher and coach. I've gained a lot of skill in playing chess and was able to compete in bigger events like in Russia. My experience in Russia was beyond description. I had 10 games to play. I won 2, tied 2 and lost 6.

I love to play chess. It's a game that challenges your thinking ability. Most of the time I've won 2nd place, but my will to participate makes me strive and to do my utmost for the next time. In Russia I had a broad experience and learned from others who were more experienced than I. I was helped by so many people in Russia. In this way I can continue to advance in the chess world."

Mr. Pop, captain of the men's Dutch Antilles team which also participated in the games, commented, "Nadiniëla is a very talented young girl for her age, and the experience she gained in Russia will make her advance in chess games as she grows older. Special thanks to Nadiniëla's sponsors: Maduro & Curiel's Bank, F.W.N.B. and Tung Fung Store, who believed in Nadiniëla's skills and paid for Nadiniëla trip to Russia. Nadiniëla admonishes more children to be part of the club. More children with more opportunity to learn more from others. It's always fun to have others join the club and this way the club grows. If we focus on helping young children to participate in international events we are focusing on putting our country on an international scale, for having strong men and women who are prepared to demonstrate that we can challenge everyone, no matter in which country we have to compete."

(Continued on the next page)

Latin Music Classics

The Merry-men are a popular calypso-band from Barbados. Their career spans four decades, from the early 1960s to the 2000s.



At their height they were popular not just throughout the Caribbean, but they had also managed to reach the number one spot on the charts of several European countries.

Their trademark sound is an upbeat form of calypso, reminiscent of what was popular in the Caribbean in the late 60s and early 70s. They have produced several memorable covers in this style, including versions of "Island in the Sun," "Jamaica Farewell," "Hot Hot Hot," and "Mary's Boy Child."

In addition to their characteristic sound, they are also known for the distinctive costumes they wear while performing and on promotional photographs. For many years The Merry-men played regular shows aboard the Jolly Roger cruise in Barbados, but now they have a much more limited appearance schedule, performing at the Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary in an after hours dinner show.

Jody's Music Quiz

This week's question:

In 1965 / 1966 "The Merry-men" had a big hit all over the world.

What was the title of this song?

Please send your answer to: info@jodysonaire.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: The big hit of the Soca Boys was "Follow The Leader". Unfortunately there's no winner of the free CD.. ■ *Jo Bux*

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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 #42

THE FUTURE



As you enter main street, in downtown Kralendijk look to your left, you will notice this interesting looking monument. It has a tiny port hole on the east side.

Take a peek inside. It's a time capsule... In 2001 members of the Bonaire community had the opportunity to place a letter or a photo inside this Capsule, to be opened years later.

Question:

Which International Organization on Bonaire donated this monument to the Bonaire people?

Answer on page 19

Christie Dovale

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



DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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Body Talk

CALCIUM CURSE OR CURE

... Continued

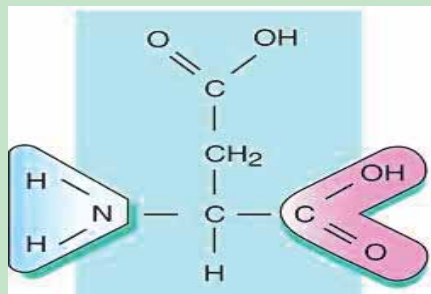
Previously I suggested you check your salivary calcium – what did you find? Remember, a foamy saliva is an indication of a calcium absorption problem. As there is usually more than enough calcium in the average diet, the actual absorption of calcium is influenced by a few important factors.

The thyroid/parathyroid gland is responsible for calcium utilization by the body. When these glands begin to fail from the mucus congestion, toxins and inflammation that dairy products create, your calcium utilization begins to fail – which is the opposite result of why you consume these products in the first place! When a lack of calcium utilization at the cellular level begins, a host of conditions including depression, bone and tissue weaknesses, nerve and muscular weakness and connective tissue weakness are just a few of the symptoms.

Calcium is an abundant mineral. It is found in 100 milligrams or more per serving in Bok choy, broccoli, all types of cheese, figs, nuts, salmon, sardines, spinach, yogurt, sesame seeds, sea vegetables (kelp) and much more.

So, even though you think there is enough calcium in your diet, and you supplement, why is there a deficiency? Over acidity, from an unbalanced diet, is probably the biggest culprit. For example, cows' milk has a lot more calcium than magnesium, upsetting that very delicate balance between the minerals and absorption. It is estimated that we only utilize about 20% of calcium in milk, whereas we utilize more calcium from fruit juice. When milk is cooked (pasteurized) the minerals become ionized, changing its effect from alkaline to acidic and causes congestion and not just useless to the body, but also harmful!

Low calcium is also directly related to an Anaerobic Imbalance where a person's body relies on fermentation to



calcium aspartate

produce energy. Since calcium levels are high in the blood, there is high urinary excretion of calcium. A blood test, looking for a calcium deficiency will of course show adequate levels of calcium, but remember, 99% of body calcium is in bone, not blood!

Calcium also competes with numerous other minerals like potassium and magnesium for absorption, and long-term supplementation or dietary intake of excess calcium will disturb that delicate balance. Certainly people with a history of kidney disease including kidney stone formation and diabetics should take extra care when supplementing with calcium.

So what exactly are the differences between all those different types of calcium on the market? There is evidence that 90% of calcium aspartate is absorbed, compared to 5% to 25% of conventional calcium supplements. Calcium aspartate absorption is also not vitamin D dependant. (Sunlight is important for calcium absorption). Other forms of calcium are calcium orotate, and calcium glycerophosphate which are all physiologically effective and cost effective. In the next issue we will talk about the role of each of these calcium supplements, sources of calcium and their effects on the body (both positive and negative), and take a closer look at the relationship between calcium, potassium and magnesium in the body.

To be continued... ■

Stephanie Bennett

Author Stephanie Bennett was born in Cape Town, South Africa, where she studied herbs, minerals and nutrition. Before moving to Bonaire she continued her studies in the UK and now researches Bonaire health issues. She is the owner of the Essence Nutritional Center



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***Unable to lose weight?**
***Cholesterol problems?**
***Always tired, cannot cope?**
***Indigestion making you miserable?**

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|---|--|

Bubbles From the Biologist



/fromthewatermagazine.com

Did You Know?...

That tarpons are able to breath air? Most fish contain gas-filled swim bladders that help them adjust their buoyancy through mechanisms similar to a scuba diver's BCD. However, tarpon have been around for so long (some scientists estimate at least 20 million years!) that they have been able to adapt their swim bladders for air breathing.

When swimming close to the surface, these ocean giants are able to open their mouths and take in gulps of air. The tarpon can then dive back down, forcing the air into the swim bladder. Because the bladder is covered in tiny blood vessels, much like the human lung, air can easily diffuse into the bloodstream and reach the vital organs. Researchers believe that this mechanism could be an

important link in the evolutionary chain that led to life on land. Although this process is quite useful in waters with low oxygen content, it is rather energy-intensive and therefore gill-breathing is used much more frequently.

■ Ian Kroll

Ian Kroll is a junior majoring in Biology, with minors in Mathematics and Literary Forms, at Vassar College in New York. He is currently studying at CIEE Research Center Bonaire and hopes to become a veterinarian specializing in marine mammals.

Amongst other things, he will greatly miss the beautiful island sun when he is forced to return back to the frigid New York winter in January.



Christmas Dinners For Our Senior Citizens (Grandinan)



For the last five years Delno Tromp has organized a Christmas dinner in December for the seniors of Bonaire. Last year 116 guests enjoyed the celebration held at Sunset Restaurant at Den Laman. This year it's hoped that 127 grandinan will be able to be served and to have a small gift. It will be on December 15, again at Sunset Restaurant.

But for this to happen it will cost \$20 per person. So if you can help by being

a sponsor it would be much appreciated. Send your guilders, dollars, whatever, to Mike Gaynor at Chat 'n Browse in Hato at the Sand Dollar Mini Mall. **Call Mike at 717-2281 or 701-2281.** Or you can email him at info@chatnbrowse.com or **Delno Tromp** at delno33@yahoo.com.

Ten kids from the Bonaire Outreach group will be there to help serve. Will you help provide the meal? ■ L.D.

(Bonaire Voices
Continued from page 6)

Now Nadiniëla and others from her club are preparing to compete in Central American and Caribbean tournaments. We hope with the new changes that our local sports will be included in the budget by the local government and supported by the VWS, the ministry of the Dutch Kingdom for Health, Welfare and Sport, which has the task of making sure that these areas will be well taken care of. ■

Siomara Albertus



Nadiniëla, another competitor and Nadiniëla's mother in Russia

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



The Aruban Connection Wet Weather Woes



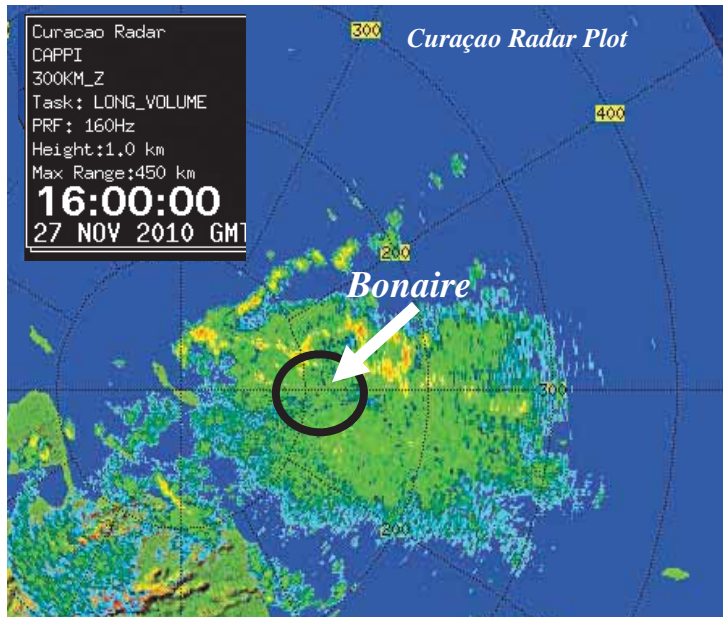
Tiara Air, an Aruban Airline that has been flying between Bonaire and Aruba for several years, has proven to be on time, have good accommodations and sympathetic employees.

On the night of November 26th, Tiara Air held a cocktail party for its host Bonaire. Mr. Alejandro Muyale, Managing Director & Account Manager, opened the night's ceremony welcoming the guests. He and his sales manager are more than pleased the way Bonaire has used the services of Tiara Air. Tiara Air has served as weekend getaway for many Bonairean people and now there's also the possibility of going to Aruba in the morning on Sundays and coming back the same evening. Mr. Muyale hopes also to broaden the service for Bonaire tourists who like to come to Bonaire for diving.

The many different airlines that come from the States can be used to connect to Bonaire from many US cities on a daily basis.

With a warm applause the night closed with the famous Aruban male singer, Jossy Brokke, who sang for the audience and introduced his new CD.

We hope to see more of Tiara Air service in the future. ■ Siomara Albertus



Old timers say the rainy weather of the past three months is typical of times long past. In those days Bonaireans grew much of their own food and fodder for their animals. Bonaire was actually a net exporter of food that included melons, green vegetables, fruit and goat meat.

Today the rain is a bane for tourists, although the SCUBA divers are not much bothered. It's flooded the roads, some shops, leaked through roofs and caused the Sanikolas arrival ceremony to be held indoors.

Kunukeros (farmers) call the rain a mixed blessing. It's filling the dams, greening the grass, but until it lets up the soil is too wet to plant.

You can find out first-hand about Bonaire agriculture by attending the open house at Kriabon, the Bonaire Farmers' Cooperative on Saturday, December 11, from 10 am to 6 pm. Details in the Happenings section on page 14. ■ G.D.

Birthday X 2 Congratulations



Floris van Loo photo

Born to Floris and Nannie van Loo
On 4 November 2010

Twins

May Your Lives be Filled With Joy

Max 2720 gm./48 cm. | Charlotte 2800 gm./48 cm.

Graphic by Isadore

Don's Captain



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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
to questions by Member of Parliament Ineke van Gent of the green left party GroenLinks. Van Gent referred to Dutch media reports of pregnant teenage girls who had been sent away by school authorities.

A visit to the SGB will confirm that pregnant girls are not being, and have not been, dismissed from the school because of their condition.

► **Commercial banks and currency exchange offices in The Netherlands are no longer accepting the Antillean guilder.** The Antillean guilder is still the official currency in Curaçao, St Maarten and the BES Islands. According to the exchange office of GWK Travelex, the Central Bank of Curaçao and St. Maarten is to be blamed.

► **THE HAGUE--A majority in Parliament wants the Queen to be restricted to ceremonial duties only,** it emerged during a parliamentary debate two weeks ago.

Only the ruling People's Party for Freedom and Democracy, the VVD, Christian Democrat CDA and two minor Christian parties want the Queen to continue in her present role as formal head of the government and retain her membership in important advisory committees.



Prime Minister Mark Rutte said later that he did not want any changes in the Queen's role. The Queen does not have any political power and every monarch is free to do the job as he or she deems fit, Rutte said.

► **THE HAGUE--Some 23 million people worldwide speak Dutch** on a daily basis, according to research by language lobby group *Nederlandse Taalunie*. In total,

some form of Dutch is spoken in 18 countries, a *Taalunie* spokesperson said. For example, in the region of Dunkirk in northern France, people speak a Dutch dialect, and Namibian Afrikaans is also a living language. In the former colony of Suriname, Dutch is the first language of 60% of the population, but an estimated 90% can speak it, *Taalunie* said.

► **The lingering Fiji-Zambizi cases have taken still another bizarre turn.** Now they are part of the Dutch Scorpio investigation. Albert de Groof was arrested last year on Bonaire on suspicion of illegal trading in gold and money laundering as part of the Fiji investigation. He has been in jail all this time although no trial has been held. Now he is to be transferred to the Netherlands for trial.

De Groof and consultant Willem van Wijngaarden were arrested in September last year on Bonaire. After months of incarceration van Wijngaarden was freed but his trial is now set for 2 March 2011. Charges against Bonaire politicians Ramonsito Booi and Burney El Hage in the same case were recently dropped with prejudice.

► With the addition of the arrival of the P&O line's cruise ship *Azura* on November 30 and her sister ship *Ventura* the expected number of cruise ships tourists for the 2010-2011 season has reached 228,972 visitors. This is about four times the number of fly-in visitors and 15 times the size of the population of Bonaire.

► Marjolein Hayden from the Antillean Wine & Food Company (AWC) reports that AWC has received the **Limoncello from Sicily, Balsamic vinegar, olive oil from Tuscany and Sicily,** pinot grigios from Villa Sandi and La Gioiosa. Other wines are arriving daily.

► The holiday season has let us welcome

► **The RCN Information Line is now completely free for wire and cellular lines. Just dial 08008-101010** from Monday-Friday, 1:15 pm -5:15 pm to ask questions about the changes resulting from the 10-10-10 integration with The Netherlands. The RCN contracted with Mrs. Roosje van der Hoek (in photo) to handle the calls. She'll respond in Papiamentu, Dutch or English and try to get you your answer within 24 hours.



RCN photo

Some of the answers to the most frequently asked questions are in regards to staying on the island, residency, medical

care, taxes and Bonaire's new address: 'Caribisch Nederland' or 'Dutch Caribbean'.
■ RCN Press Release



► **For Christmas the Richter Art Gallery is featuring** a number of special items, including handmade holiday art ornaments and a new line of jewelry featuring dive and

Bonaire motifs, as well as the new calendars. The Richter Art Gallery can be reached via <http://www.RichterArt.com> or 717-4112.

some new advertisers.

- Germaine Nijdam Art
- Go Green Healthfood Supermarket
- The Brandaris Café and
- Dive Friends Bonaire with their four locations and two retail stores

Check their ads in this issue and pay them a visit.

► Based on an email received from a *Reporter* reader, we believe a **classified ad for free bulldog puppies** that appeared in the two past editions of *The Reporter* is a scam. Beware!

► **Thanks for patronizing Reporter advertisers. It's they who keep it "Still Free!"** ■ G./L. D.



Bart, Bowse, DJ and Ruland (Bob) from Wanna Dive and Sorobon Beach at DEMA

► Bonaire had a big exhibit at the recent "The Diving Equipment & Marketing Association" (DEMA) trade show in Las Vegas from November 17th to the 20th. The Bonaire delegation included representatives from Belmar Ocean Front Apartments, Bonaire Eco Experience, The Bonaire Municipal Government (represented by Commissioner Anthony Nicolaas), Bonaire Partners, BONHATA, Buddy Dive Resort, Budget, Captain Don's Habitat, Caribbean Club Bonaire, Dive Friends Bonaire, Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino, Insel Air, Island Express, Plaza Resort Bonaire, Sand Dollar Condominiums, Sorobon Beach Resort Bonaire, the TCB, Tiara and Wanna Dive Bonaire. According to reports from the event the tourism business for Bonaire is expected to be good in 2011. For more information about DEMA visit www.dema.org.

Green Label Helps to Beautify Warehouse Bonaire



They're neighbors who give a helping hand. The beautification of the parking lot at Warehouse Bonaire was made a reality by Ap van Eldik and his crew from Green Label. What a welcome sight, being made all the more lush and green

by our current season of heavy rains. Thank you, Green Label and Warehouse Bonaire for giving us some nature to enjoy. Green Label has been making the island more beautiful for the last 11 years. ■

Bonaire

by Charlotte English

Here is a poem written by 10 year old Charlotte English of Austin, Texas, who's grandparents lived on Bonaire for 11 years and were visited by her here for many of those years. It's a tribute from her to our wonderful island.

Soft white warm sand,
in between your toes.

Cool blue salty water,
don't get it up your nose.

Talking, squawking, green para-
keets,
all they do is go squeek squeek
squeek.

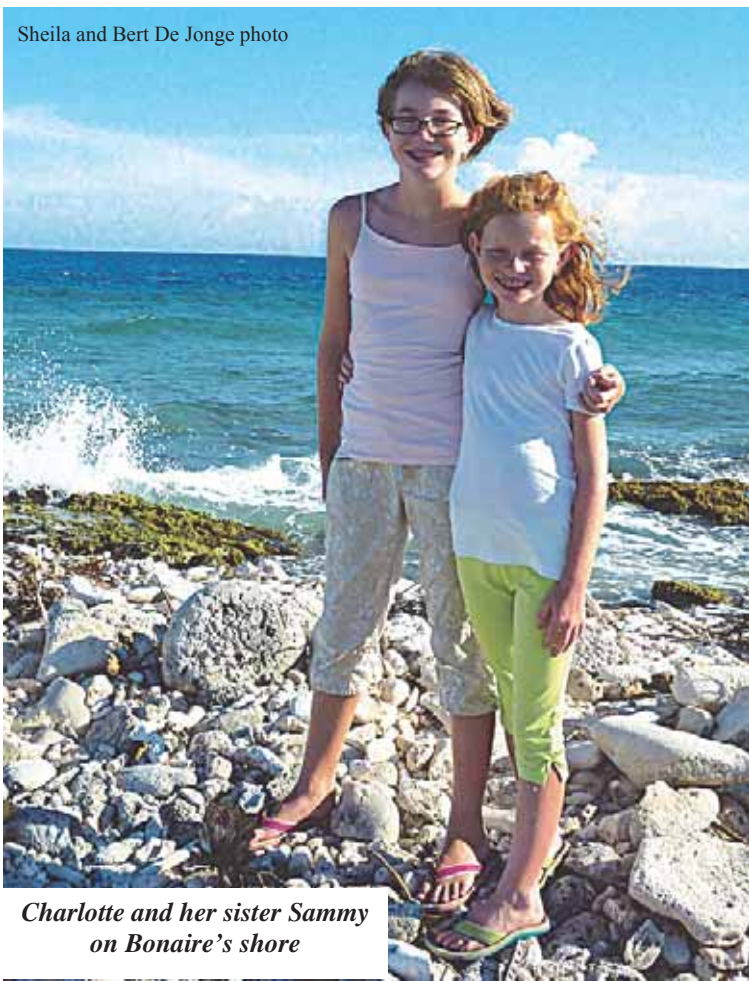
The warehouse, red and tin,
oh, the wonders held within.

The smell of the sea is always
there,
the wind ruffling your hair.

I love it and it loves me.

Bonaire, the place to be. ■

Sheila and Bert De Jonge photo



Charlotte and her sister Sammy
on Bonaire's shore

Happy Birthday

Greta Kooistra
photo



Happy, Happy 23rd Birthday
Fleurtje!

And many, many more years to come
together with Madelief

You're such a great girl!

Love,
Mom



Johannetta Gordijn photo

Sunday we dove at Red Beryl and saw eight lionfish on one dive, all between 40 and 50 mtr. H.L.

More
Every
Day

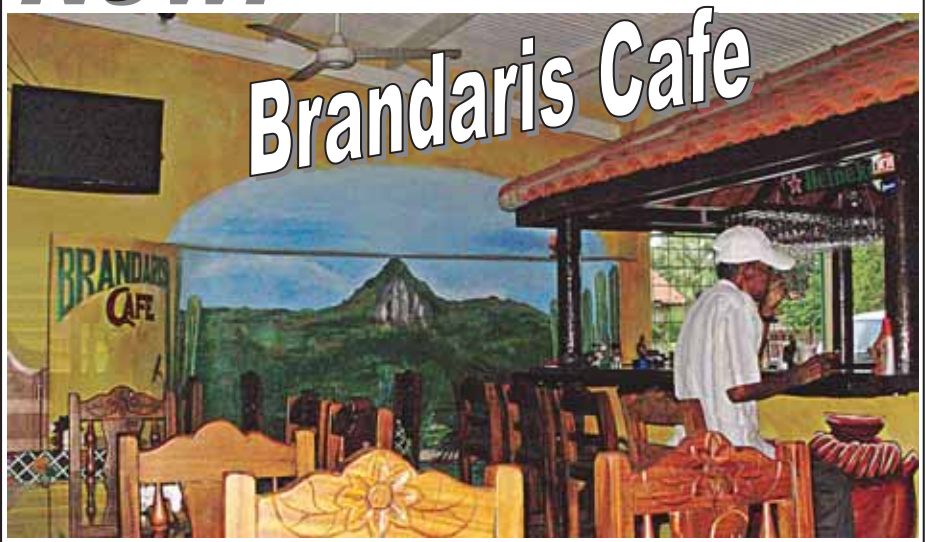
Animal Farm Receives Donation

Funchi Egbreghts' Animal Farm, which began in January 2008, received 1600 Euro from Mark Erwin Vos' Stichting Dierenhulp (photo). The Farm has been instrumental in educating school children in the importance of the role of animals and their care, especially how people and nature can work together. The Farm is located in Washikemba. Take the Lagoen Road to nearly the end and look for the sign on the right to the Animal Farm. It's a happy place to visit! ■ Press Release



Jose Cieremans
photo

New! Downtown Restaurant



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Authentic Local (Krioyo) and Venezuelan dishes....
Specials every day —Take Away too 717-4596

Reserve Now for your business and personal Christmas parties featuring a very special Venezuelan Christmas buffet.

Groups of up to 30 persons are welcome.

Christmas Buffet: 3 salads, 4 main dishes, 3 accompaniments and 3 desserts, including a welcome cocktail!

Selections include: Hallaca Andina, Pernil de Cerdo, Pavo Relleno con Salsa de Frambuesa, Jamon de Navidad, Papas Horneadas, Dulce de Papaya, Dulce de Tres Leches, Torta Negra, more..

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Located in Belnem at Kaya R. Statius van Eps 17, on the Road to Sorobon
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Please note the Gallery is located on the second floor, accessible by a wide circular staircase



La Cuarda Venezolana Ensemble Plays Bonaire

Plaza Resort-November 20, 2010.

The Venezuelan ensemble, *La Cuadra Venezolana*, this past Saturday evening performed a varied repertoire of lively Latin and Antillean traditional music for an enthusiastic Bonaire audience at Plaza Resort's Cacique Hall. Compositions ranged from sprightly "vales" and island-inspired "marenques" to jazz fusion and even a "Barroco-joropo-Folklore" played out from recurrent themes of Johan Sebastian Bach.



La Cuadra Venezolana at The Plaza

are all classically trained and have studied and performed in a variety of locations in Latin America and Europe. ■

Robert Gilmour

La Cuadra drew selections for their Bonaire concert from traditional "vales," "marenques," and "joropos" of well-known twentieth century Venezuelan composers. The group began the evening with "Juliana" (vals) of Lionell Velasco, the essence of a sprightly waltz, off set by refrains of deep pathos. Later the first portion of the program was ended by "La Cabra Mocha" by Siman Diaz with the players exiting the stage seriatim as their individual parts in the composition ended. Sandwiched in between were traditional "danzas," "Polo Oriental" from folklore and a new "merenque" composition by the ensemble's bassist, Miguel Gonzales.

Following the intermission, the ensemble seemed literally to come into its own, among themselves and with an energized and wholly involved audience in Cacique Hall's intimate setting. Brilliant virtuoso performances of flutist Nicaulis Alliey, violinist Jose Escalona and cuarto/guitarist Juver Ulacio by turns became duets, then trios and then well honed quartets with bassist Miguel Gonzales as these performers played to and with each other as a unified magnet to their audience. Another contemporary "merenque" and a "vals-joropo" by bassist Miguel Gonzales and an extraordinary Bach-fusion original brought the hall into a fusion of its own. Departing from the printed program, the group played a popular piece by well-known Curaçao composer and singer, Rudy Plaatte, bringing the audience itself into song, followed by standing ovations.

La Cuadra's musicians hail from Maricaibo, Venezuela; however, they

Second Annual December Holiday Concert

Bonaire's second annual December Holiday Concert will be held Saturday, December 18, 2010, 7:30 pm at Plaza Resort Bonaire's Cacique Hall, featuring local musicians, performing classical European and traditional Antillean music (rhythmical songs of tumba, krioyo, simidan, bari, waltz and danza tradition) – all "with a taste of Christmas."

Guest keyboardist **Felix Faassen**, who has performed in France and Mexico as organist in the Rare Groove Orchestra, will join his father, **Hans Odin Faassen**, in a special rendition of Johann Sebastian Bach. The elder Faassen gave a solo piano recital on Bonaire last October.

Gebby I Su Streanan, a well-known lo-

cal band will play Antillean dances and Christmas music in classical tradition. The group's leader, **Cabriel (Gebby) Seleh** on piano will be joined by **Hubert (Ibi) de Palm** on guitar and bass; **Roberto (Papachi) Salsbach** on kwarta and bass; **Norbert (Norbis) Goyla** on wiri, rasp and maraca and **Genaro Anthony** Percussion will play conga, timbaal and compaña.

Local prodigy pianist **Grep Linkels** -- just 8 years old -- will perform a piece for four hands by Fritz Spindler, the other two hands provided by Grep's piano teacher, Hans Faassen.

Bonaire's renowned **Silver Bullet Steel Band** will perform a repertoire of instrumental melodies of local and Caribbean composition. Started in the village of Tera Kora over 50 years ago, the Silver Bullet has performed in locations well beyond the local islands – in the US, Venezuela, Columbia, Chile and elsewhere.

Tutti Frutti, the "pearls from Rincon," an immensely popular local group, now known in The Netherlands as well after their 2009 tour, will perform a medley of Bonairean rhythmical songs with a special program for this concert.

For those who still need more, there will be an after party with **Gebby I Su Streanan**.

The December Holiday 2010 Concert is organized by the Classical Music Board Bonaire, which will have tickets available on line at www.ClassicalMusicBonaire.com for NA\$30 each; children accompanied by parents, NA\$10. Tickets may also be purchased at Addo's Books and Toys and Flamingo Bookstore (Kaya Grandi), also at the reception desk at Plaza Resort Bonaire.

The next concert in the Classical Music Board Series will feature Jan Brokken, an Antillean music critic and analyst, and three of the Dutch Antilles premier pianists, **Livio Hermans Johnny Kleinmoedig** and **Willem Statius Muller** on Saturday, January 28, 2011 at 8 pm, also at Plaza Resort's Cacique Hall. ■

Robert Gilmour

Saturday, December 18, 2010, starting at 7.30 pm
Plaza Resort Bonaire, Cacique hall

classical music board bonaire

musicians from bonaire for bonaire

DECEMBER HOLIDAY CONCERT 2010

classical european, antillean and original bonairean music
with a taste of CHRISTMAS

FELIX FAASSEN
guest player, keyboards

GEBBY I SU STREANAN
piano, guitar, kwarta, bass

GREP LINKELS
piano

HANS FAASSEN
piano/keyboards

PAPACHI SALSACH
mandoline, guitar

SILVER BULLET STEELBAND

TUTTI FRUTTI
the pearls from Rincon

after party with GEBBY I SU STREANAN

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

Thanks to the Friends of the Classical Music Board Bonaire for continuing to sponsor this fantastic program!



Not Even Heavy Rain Could Stop Sanikolas' Visit to Bonaire

In some places the holiday season starts with the clatter of cash registers. In Bonaire it begins with the sound of drums and clapping, cheering children.

As has been traditional for 16 years now Sanikolas and his attendants, the black faced *Swarte Pieten* (Black Petes) arrived in Bonaire last Saturday, November 27.

But this time, the first time ever in the last 16 years, heavy downpours of rain nearly blocked their visit, which has always been by boat, arriving at the Town Pier and in bright sunlight. SEBIKI, the organization which was doing all the planning and organizing for the event, was thrown a nearly insurmountable challenge: How and where will the island's children greet Sanikolas? It was early Saturday morning. The rain continued to pour down and skies were completely clouded over. The arrival was to be around 3 pm. Would the rain stop in time for Sanikolas to arrive by boat?

Finally, at 11 am the SEBIKI committee decided to change the venue to the Sporthall for 3 pm. The word was out. Friends called friends, it was announced on the radio. The result: more than a thousand people - children and adults - found their way to the



The Reporter's mailing assistant, Ava Rose Wuyts, loved the show

Sporthall for games, face painting, dancing, singing, playing, awaiting the arrival of The Saint.

Then around 4 the excitement built to a crescendo with the soul stirring drum and bugle corps, the

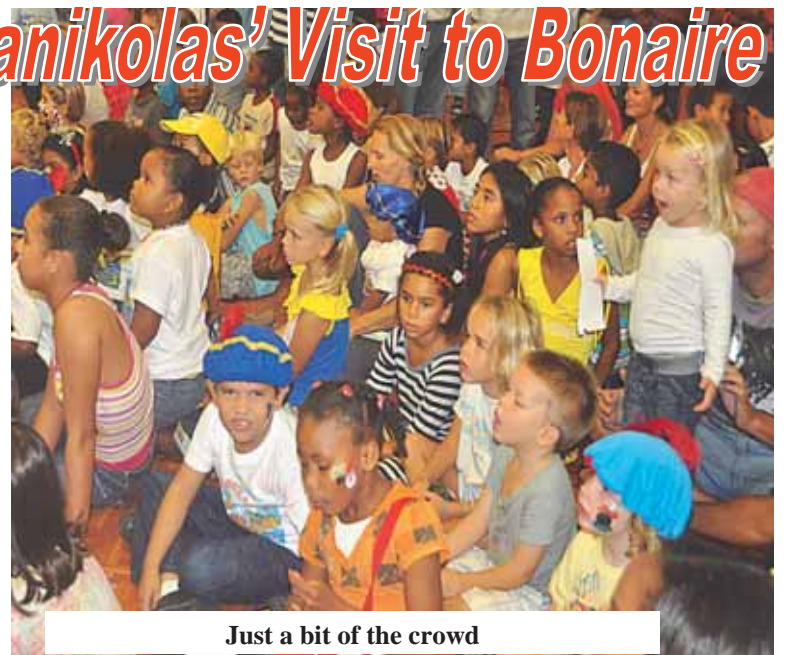
honking of cars, the jeep with the old gentleman and a bus carrying the *Swarte Pieten*. Arriving at the entrance to the Sporthall *Sanikolas*, looking a bit wet and bedraggled, was helped out of the jeep by Acting Lt. Governor Elvis Tjin-tjoe and the head *Swarte Piet* who handed him his miter hat. The crowd went wild. He'd made it after all.

Inside the Sporthall the excitement continued with the *Swarte Pieten* doing their jigs, their antics, swinging their sacks and ropes and teasing the children. The entertainment went on until 6:30 pm.

Sanikolas and his *Swarte Pieten* will return to Spain, from whence they came, on December 5, after visiting the hospital, old folks home, schools and other places.

Great thanks to the wonderful, tireless workers of SEBIKI, the SBO students, Happy People, Bonairean Youth and all the other volunteers. You had an incredible challenge and you made it turn out fantastically. ■

Laura DeSalvo



Just a bit of the crowd



The Wondrous *Swarte Pieten*



LAGOEN HILL # 57 & 58

Large detached villa and two holiday homes

Asking price:

ANG 1.602.050,-

US \$ 895,000

buyers costs not included

- Quiet and friendly neighborhood
- Solar system for partial electricity supply
- Cozy large terrace and big garden
- Communal pool
- Good rental possibilities



Germaine Nijdam, Artist And Driftwood Art Pioneer

There have been many who have done and are doing driftwood art, but Curaçao-born Germaine Nijdam was the original pioneer and her work stands out as classic pieces of that art. "Of course," Germaine says, "there is such fun and excitement in beach-combing, never knowing what you'll find, that it's no wonder so many people do it!" But Germaine is a true and serious artist in her own right and that shows in her work with those natural materials cast up on our beaches.

Inspired by her artist grandfather, Germaine started painting at an early age and by the time she returned to the Caribbean and Bonaire after a stint in Portugal she started painting on canvas, then became entranced with driftwood. "I was doing it for myself at first," Germaine explains, "then I was making pieces for friends, and that's how it all began!" Now it's chairs, benches, shelves, lamps, tables as well as her driftwood framed oil and acrylic paintings of the intense dark blue/light blue lines of the Caribbean horizon for which she's



be seen and purchased in Holland (www.marria.nl) and Curaçao.

Her atelier and home in Santa Barbara at Kaya Onix #1 is full of surprises. The high natural stone wall encompasses a fascinating sculpture garden full of indigenous plants and trees. Follow the stone path dotted with dark and light blue marbles that sparkle in the sun to the artist's workshop and see what new whimsies and wonders she's created. Contact the artist at 717-2203 or 786-1714, Email: gnart@bonairenet.com ■

Laura DeSalvo



well known. She also makes signs, wind chimes, even rosaries. Her partner, Inge van der Linden, helps her with the business aspects and beach combing.

Nijdam's work has been in exhibitions in Portugal, Holland, Curaçao, Bonaire and Cuba. Her furniture has been bought by well known designers like Piet Boon and art lovers like Henny Huisman, Gert Berg and Ruud Hendriks. And now her art can

Planta Palu Plant A Tree Planta Palu



Marian Walthie photo

On Sunday, November 21, the Ban Boneiru Bek Foundation, TCB, STINAPA and others put on a wonderful Tree Planting (Palu Planta) Festival at the Washington/Slagbaai National Park despite rainy weather. In the photo Commissioner James Kroon and tree art winner, Gabriel Guarenas, plant one of the trees. ■ G.D.



ELEGANCIA DEL CARIBE 9

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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. | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------|------|------|---------|
| Day | Date | Ship | Arr | Dep | PAX Cap |
| Mon | Dec-06 | <i>Aida Vita</i> | 0800 | 1600 | 1260 |
| | | <i>Ventura</i> | 0800 | 1800 | 3100 |
| Wed | Dec-08 | <i>Noordam</i> | 0700 | 1400 | 1918 |
| | | <i>Caribbean</i> | 1100 | 2000 | 3100 |
| Fri | Dec-10 | <i>Grandeur of the</i> | 0700 | 1600 | 2446 |
| | | <i>Oceana</i> | 0800 | 1800 | 1950 |
| Tue | Dec-14 | <i>Emerald Princess</i> | 1200 | 2000 | 3100 |
| Thu | Dec-16 | <i>Sea Princess</i> | 0800 | 1800 | 2016 |
| Fri | Dec-17 | <i>Friday market</i> | 0900 | 1400 | |
| Every Sun. through Tuesday | through Spring 2011 | Scientology Freewinds | 0630 | 2200 | 150 |

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Thursday, December 2- Open House at Bonaire's new prison for all the BES islands. Hours 1-6 pm. See the 45 new cells that can hold 125 prisoners and hope you never have to visit them again.

Saturday, December 11 – Open House at Kriabon Farmers' Co-Op, (end of the paved Nikiboko North road, Kaminda Jato Bako # 55). Agricultural information, displays, sales of vegetable plants, kunuku information and more. Local food, BBQ, drinks. From 10 am-6 pm

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 22

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

Friday December 17—Referendum voting.

Saturday, December 18-Christmas Concert at Plaza Resort. More on page 11

Saturday, December 18—Farmers' Market, outside Go Green Shop in front of church in Playa

Saturday, December 25- Christmas Day, Some shops will close early on December 24 and be closed on December 27 to observe "Boxing Day."

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

Saturday, January 1, 2011- New Years Day. Some shops will close early on December 31. Dutch laws and benefits come into full effect..

REGULAR EVENTS

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

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

Saturdays

- **Rincon Marshé**—6 am-2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, music. **Big Marché first Saturday of the month**—www.infobonaire.com/rincon.

- **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's** warehouse on Kaya Industria, **second Saturday of the month,** 7-9 pm. Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 (NAf17,50) per person. Tel. 560-7539.

- **Soldachi Tours—See the real Bonaire and be transported back in time.** Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information—796-7870.

Mondays

- **Soldachi Tours of Rincon,** the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria, 717-6435-best island tour value

- **Meet the Captain Night at Captain Don's Habitat Bar—** Get up close and personal with Bonaire's dive pioneer. The Captain 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

ART EXHIBITS

Ronald Verhoeven Art Exhibit, Kas di Arte, until December 5. Open Tuesday-Friday, 10 am-noon & 2-7 pm. Saturday 10 am-noon. Kaya J.N.E. Craane #34 (on the boulevard)

Wil Dijkstra Exhibition, Plaza Resort, until April 1, 2011

Kaminda di Arte (Art Trail) every third Sunday of the month until June 2011. Visit artists' homes and studios. Information: Karel de Regt: 717-5785 / 788-4477, karel@flamingotv.net, or Fred v.d. Broek: 788-2536, fredvdbroek48@hotmail.com

Call For Appointment

Driftwood and Art by Germaine Nijdam, Kaya Onix 1, Republiek, Santa Barbara. 717-2203, 786-1714, Email: gnart@bonairenet.com

Fine Art & Portraits by Renate van der Bijl, 717-6500, www.renatevanderbijl.com
JanArt Gallery, Kaya Gloria 7, 717-5246
José Atelier, Kaya Aleksandrit 6, Republiek, open Saturdays, 10-3 Tel. 785-6670

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, NAf2,50, call Renata at 796-5591 to find out the evening's location.

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

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

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

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

Rotary lunch meetings **Wednesdays,** 12:15-2 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 Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: *Kralendijk,* Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 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

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

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

Take The Reporter Home—1-year subscription: By mail to US \$75; By mail to Europe \$170. By Internet, Free (asking a \$35 donation.) For information about subscriptions, stories or advertising in **The Bonaire Reporter,** PO Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles; phone (599) 790-6518, 786-6125, E-mail: info@bonairereporter.com

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New
Downtown
Restaurant

The Brandaris Café at Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar #22 has expanded. Once a small takeout café next to Jong Bonaire for the last 10 years, it's now expanded into a comfortable, spotless family-like dining room. Henry and Myrian from Venezuela have operated the popular little place for the last 10 years, but now it's turned into a place to relax and enjoy the good local kriooyo food, for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Particularly interesting and delicious are the specials of Pabellón (Venezuelan crioyo), and according to Henry, it's the only place on the island selling real Venezuelan empanadas with chicken, beef, cheese or ham and cheese. Try them for breakfast especially. Every day there is a special dish on the menu.

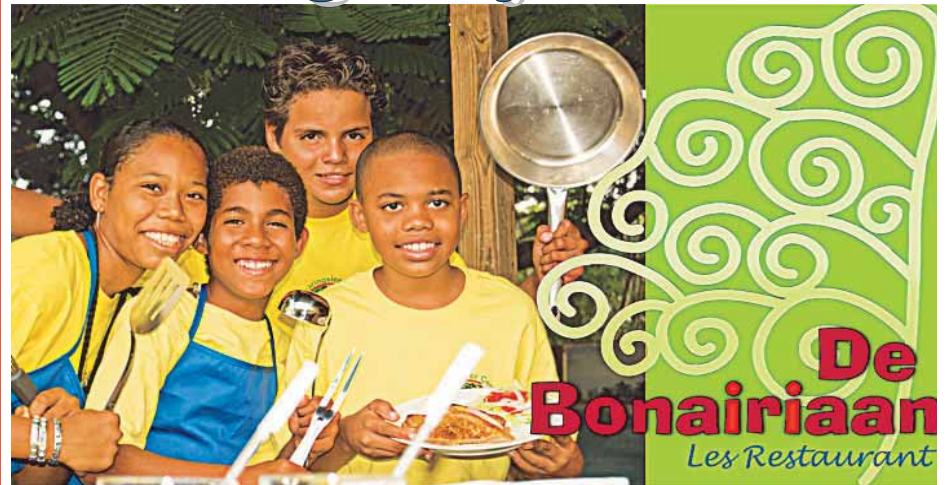
Breakfast and lunch are served every day, Monday through Saturday. For breakfasts there are sandwiches, the famous empanadas, pastechis, croquettes. Lunch features local food – fish, goat, chicken and beef with traditional sauces. Dinners, served

Wednesday through Saturdays, feature a Terrace Grill with four different meats, chicken rotisserie, ribs, fish, filet mignon, hamburgers shish kabob. Don't miss the desserts – Dulce Three Leches and the Venezuelan specialty, Quesillo. All drinks are available – coffee, tea, wine, beer, alcoholic drinks

For corporate groups and friends who want to get together to celebrate the season Brandaris Café is offering a special Christmas Buffet Menu featuring some very special Venezuelan dishes. Groups up to 30 can enjoy the family ambiance in a private setting for just their group. For more information call them at 717-4596 or email HenryMendoza.Bonaire@gmail.com

Stop in and say hello to Henry and Myrian, have a drink, a coffee and try some of their delicious dishes. (More information on page 10) . ■ *Laura DeSalvo*

Stichting Project Dinner



Bonaire's award-winning youth help foundation, the Stichting Project, is pulling out all the stops for their fund raising dinner in December. Don't forget to sign up as soon as possible for this terrific dinner event that will be held on Tuesday night, December 14, at 7 pm (19.00) at "Les Restaurant De Bonairiaan." That's the charming street side restaurant the students set up on Kaya J.A. Abraham, just north of the Divi Flamingo Hotel.

Stichting Project leaders are hoping the special dinner will draw supporters and sponsors. The profits of this evening will benefit the activities of the Stichting Project.

The youngsters participating in the Project will voluntarily dedicate themselves that evening for you to enjoy the quality of "Les Restaurant De Bo-

nairiaan."

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. 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., 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.

Those interested can make reservations at "Les Restaurant De Bonairiaan." Or call 717-6921 / 786-6816
E-mail: stichtingproject@flamingotv.net
www.stichtingproject.com

Hope to see you that night at Les Restaurant De Bonairiaan. ■ *G.D.*

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LUNCH TO GO

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STUDIO for one person available to rent DEC 21 on. Best price on the island. Kitchenette, TV airco, laundry room. famouscaptain@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

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Are you looking for **unique Bonaire souvenirs and gifts?** Did you forget someone on your souvenir list? Did you run out of room in your suitcase? Are you missing Bonaire? We will bring a little piece of Bonaire paradise to you! We have created beautiful unique items featuring incredible professional photographs of Bonaire and marine life. Check out our notebooks, water bottles, totes, cards, and more. **Visit us on line at www.bonairegifts.com**

Ford Ranger pickup for sale. 2002, 3L-6Cyl, 80.000 km Airco, stereo, new tires. Perfect condition. NAf 15.400, Call **786-2844** or **717-2844**

2 cars Must sell. 2002 Chevrolet Cavalier, only 49,00 miles \$4,500 **1998 Ford Escort** \$2500. or best offer. phone **786-1789**

Female, seeking female roommate to share expenses in your place, or we can find one together. English/Dutch. **788-1069 ... islandgirlsuzy@gmail.com**

For Sale or Rent- Located at Hato, small house or studios. **Open house** on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 11-2pm. Also paintings. Tel. **717-2529**

Tables with wreck wood are back again, 3 sizes milk white. Open house on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 11-2 pm. Also paintings. Tel. **717-2529** Herman. Located at Hato, K. Utrecht 25

Opportunity



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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 |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------|--------|
| December Fri 03 | | 03:18 / - 0.00 ft | 10:35 / 1.24 ft | 19:34 / - 0.13 ft | 23:55 / 0.11 ft | 6:41 | 18:09 |
| Sat 04 | | 03:43 / 0.05 ft | 11:23 / 1.26 ft | 20:36 / - 0.19 ft | | 6:42 | 18:09 |
| Sun 05 | 02:04 / 0.11 ft | 03:53 / 0.11 ft | 12:13 / 1.24 ft | 21:32 / - 0.24 ft | New Moon | 6:43 | 18:09 |
| Mon 06 | 13:03 / 1.19 ft | 22:22 / - 0.26 ft | | | | 6:43 | 18:10 |
| Tue 07 | 13:53 / 1.12 ft | 23:06 / - 0.25 ft | | | | 6:44 | 18:10 |
| Wed 08 | 14:41 / 1.04 ft | 23:44 / - 0.23 ft | | | | 6:44 | 18:10 |
| Thu 09 | 07:00 / 0.39 ft | 08:24 / 0.39 ft | 15:27 / 0.94 ft | | | 6:45 | 18:11 |
| Fri 10 | | 00:16 / - 0.20 ft | 06:59 / 0.46 ft | 10:26 / 0.43 ft | 16:10 / 0.83 ft | 6:45 | 18:11 |
| Sat 11 | | 00:43 / - 0.16 ft | 07:17 / 0.54 ft | 12:00 / 0.43 ft | 16:51 / 0.72 ft | 6:46 | 18:11 |
| Sun 12 | | 01:05 / - 0.12 ft | 07:37 / 0.62 ft | 13:23 / 0.40 ft | 17:32 / 0.60 ft | 6:46 | 18:12 |
| Mon 13 | First Quarter | 01:24 / - 0.08 ft | 07:59 / 0.71 ft | 14:41 / 0.34 ft | 18:15 / 0.49 ft | 6:47 | 18:12 |
| Tue 14 | | 01:40 / - 0.04 ft | 08:21 / 0.79 ft | 15:53 / 0.27 ft | 19:02 / 0.37 ft | 6:47 | 18:13 |
| Wed 15 | | 01:53 / 0.00 ft | 08:46 / 0.87 ft | 17:01 / 0.19 ft | 19:54 / 0.27 ft | 6:48 | 18:13 |
| Thu 16 | | 02:03 / 0.03 ft | 09:13 / 0.94 ft | 18:05 / 0.10 ft | 20:55 / 0.17 ft | 6:49 | 18:13 |
| Fri 17 | | 02:11 / 0.04 ft | 09:43 / 1.01 ft | 19:05 / 0.02 ft | 22:11 / 0.09 ft | 6:49 | 18:14 |

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APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS and COMPUTERS



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

ART & GALLERIES

Germaine Nijdam's Artwork is internationally displayed. She is currently specializing in driftwood furniture and related art pieces.

The Richter Art Gallery, located in Belnem, is Bonaire's only fine art gallery, and features original paintings, limited edition archival art prints, and hand made jewelry created by long-time residents Linda, Jake, and Krystyana Richter.

BEAUTY PARLOR

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BOOKS

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

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DINING

The Brandaris Café is the top-notch, spotless downtown restaurant for local, krioyo and Venezuelan food. Go once and you'll make it a habit.

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

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

ON & IN THE WATER

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

Dive Friends has four dive schools and two retail shops so you always get the best deals and assured of top notch training.

UNDERWATER VIDEO

ScubaVision - Pro video of your Bonaire vacation, above and/or below the water with a custom DVD by Bonaire's top videographer, Hendrik Wuyts

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Now in new expanded location off Kaya Industria.

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

HEALTH

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



Harmony House—Using science to find the problem. Using natural products to correct the problem.

Also Essence range of herbal teas & handmade soaps. At Kaya Papa Cornes 2

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

HOME CARE

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

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Paradise Photo in the Les Galeries Shopping Center downtown offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services. **Full digital services.**

PHOTOGRAPHER

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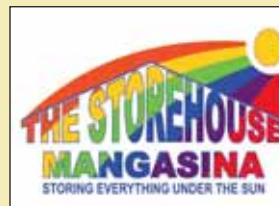


Harbourtown Real Estate has extensive listing of Bonaire properties of all kinds. They can help sell your Bonaire home too. Visit their new office.

RETAIL

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Letters to the Editor

ARTIST THANK YOU

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for the nice and positive article in *The Reporter* "Kas di Arte 10 years and Exhibition Ronald." We have a lot of different people visiting the exhibition and they like it very much. So we are satisfied and happy.

Ronald and Henny Verhoeven

REPRINT OF LETTER TO BONAIRE OFFICIALS ABOUT SUNSET BEACH

I wish to introduce myself. I am a resident of Bonaire since 2003. I have been in the travel industry since 1987 and specialize in Bonaire. It is with delight I reside on an island that embraces nature in all regards. STINAPA and so many other organizations allow Bonaire to be recognized as one of the Caribbean's most eco minded islands.

I never saw Sunset Beach Hotel but its history is so well known to all. On days off I go to the remnants of what was and snorkel and swim. I enjoy gazing at the mature trees, feeling the lovely breezes. Having been to other islands that have land banks and parks such as Bermuda I can envision the same at Sunset Beach.

As you are aware many on island are keenly interested in protecting this land parcel and creating a park for the people. This would be a step in the right direction. The island's first National Park Trust could be spearheaded by your young and innovative group of leaders. This would be an indelible mark on your leadership and would represent the new beginning for our country. I implore you to consider this initiative.

Our island has sufficient hotel capacity. We don't need more rooms but we do need a protected area for the people to include parking, picnic areas, lush foliage and nature along our breathtaking seaside. This could be the legacy of our new generation and for the people always.

Ann Phelan

THE 'PRINCIPLE OF BALANCE' AS APPLIED TO 'ECONOMY VS. ECOLOGY'

Dear Editor:

Duality is unproductive and unhelpful. The existing antagonistic controversy between 'economy' and 'ecology' illustrates

this. The two sides are forever bickering, resulting in both economic stagnation and continuing environmental deterioration.

This 'eco-eco' war is directly linked to another war of ideas, i.e. the still lingering ideological divide between capitalism and socialism. When the discussion about the environment is carefully analyzed, it will be seen that in general the more capitalistically inclined don't care much about the environment. Some even go so far as to deny that there is any ecological threat at all. On the other hand, those who fight for the environment tend to be more socialistically inclined.

To put it differently, those who don't care about the environment in general believe in freedom and individuality (libertarian government), whereas those who defend the environment stress their belief in equality (collectivized government).

The Party for Justice and Unity (Partido pro Hustisia & Union - PHU) believes in both freedom and equality. Some things are better done collectively (e.g. the building of roads); other things are better done individually (free enterprise). Although the PHU-party does believe that government should be as small as possible, there are limits to the smallness of government. The right balance between collective and individual solutions will lead to a harmonious society.

Returning to the environment. The PHU recognizes both the necessity for free enterprise and economic growth, as well as the necessity for environmental preservation. How can these two be reconciled? The answer is easy when you know it.

A simple example to illustrate our point. We have at home a box of matches. On the box the manufacturer assures consumers that the matches and the box have been produced in an ecologically friendly manner. The wood the matches are made of is poplar wood, but the manufacturer plants more poplars annually than he uses to produce matches. The box itself is made of recycled material.

This exemplifies the 'Principle of Balance' as applied to the 'economy vs. ecology' divide (the 'eco-eco' war). In a PHU government anybody (any company) will be free to set up any kind of business, provided the business adheres to the principle of balance. If a part of Nature is destroyed by the business, the business itself will be obliged to restore an equivalent part of Nature (at the site itself or elsewhere). This can be done in many ways, only one of them being to pay a



certain amount of money enabling others to do the equivalent restoration work.

We do apologize to the readers of *The Bonaire Reporter* that time constraints do not allow us to translate our press-releases into English. If somebody would be willing to help us with this, we would be very grateful. *Partido pro Hustisia & Union*
Rafael Santana, President

Michiel Bijkerk, Secretary

LOST OPPORTUNITY

Dear Editor,

As known, local media maintain the myth that the overwhelming majority of the Bonairean people is against the "immoral Dutch laws" which will be introduced in the framework of the new status of our island. They just ignore the fact that less than 1% of the inhabitants showed for a demonstration against these laws.

As I already have proposed in the past, during the coming referendum the people could be asked their opinion about these laws (separately for the right of women to abort, right to euthanasia and same sex marriage). In this way, the costs of the organization of the referendum would not be totally squandered.

Jiri Lausman

LEST WE FORGET SUNSET BEACH

Dear Editor

Unfortunately, we tend to forget that the island of Bonaire belongs first and foremost to its people. The Dutch have their stake, the foreign companies have their

Winner



The first prize winner in the Pelikaan School Lottery was **Kessedy van de Heuvel** who won a Disney laptop computer donated by City Shop. In the photo she is presented her award by City Shop's **Bouba Dabboussi** and Pelikaan School Principal **Wilma Bohm**. ■ G.D.

stakes - where is the Bonairean stake? If the people of Bonaire want a beach, then for heaven's sake, give them a beach! Do we REALLY need to see more development on the island, especially a hotel?? I say NO. As Americans, we came to Bonaire for vacation - fell in love with it, bought a time-share and kept coming back. Someday we'd love to spend our winters there. We love the island like our second home and the people we've met there are our second family. So I would love to see my "extended family" have their own haven for fun and the opportunity to create jobs for themselves. Take care not only of the island, but also the people of Bonaire or someday there won't BE a Bonaire to come back to. I don't think that's what anyone really wants....

Judy Marth

Picture Yourself With The Reporter In... The Koemarkt in Purmerend, Holland



Fleurtje Velkamp and her daughter Madelief Thodé at the Koemarkt (Cow/Cattle market) in Purmerend, Holland, where they moved in May of this year for Fleurtje to start an HBO education. ■

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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.



Ural Motorcycle and Sidecar

The 80th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels." On course for 100+

Bonaire/Kralendijk/Playa –

There is just a very little Russian influence visible on and around the paved and unpaved roads of Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. Once I saw the remains of a white four-door Lada saloon getting a taint, and for some years a yellow sprayed Lada Niva 4X4 knocked around with a worn out muffler. For some time this four-wheel drive had a surf board mounted permanently on top of the roof as a kind of spoiler. That is all on four wheels. Then some one and a half Ural Dnjepr have been stored in a garage for ages, waiting for restoration. And for a couple of years a Dnepr was parked near Lisa's Car Wash.

And then of course there is the Ural Dnepr, parked right behind the gate of Orlando's Motorcycle Shop, situated along the Kaya Grandi in the capital of the island of Bonaire. This drab green trike attracts a lot of attention from people passing by, especially tourists from the glass iceberg cruise ships. As they cannot read Russian they are unable to expand their knowledge. The best thing they can make out of it is that it is not a Harley-Davidson. (However, some people still think it is a Harley-Davidson WL "Liberator" because it is painted army

green.)

Orlando is the proud owner of this Russian made creature. The motorcycle looks quite original and is still in running condition. It is not as old as it looks. A lot of people think the three wheeler was produced during the Second World War but by the "modern" layout from the dashboard and the blinkers I am quite sure this lump of Russian heavy metal was produced in the late 80s or the early 90s of the last century. How these two to three traditional motorcycles found their way to Bonaire is unknown to me. However, the side car is a nice contribution to the cultural part of the Bonairean society.

It is not exactly known how the Russians got the design and the production techniques of this former German BMW R71. Some people think A. Hitler just gave the licenses and technical details to the Russians because the Russians officially had promised not to attack the German Third Reich. (Later the Germans attacked Russia but that was not illegal because they did not promise the Russians not to attack them.) Another story tells that the Swedish "organized" five original German-made Beemer R71s to present them to Russia. The Russians, those days, were in the need of a modern motorcycle as a

contribution to their defense against the Germans. So, one way or another, they got hold of a bunch of original BMW R71s and they practiced a lot of reverse engineering.

So, later copies of German motorcycles, produced as Urals or as Dnjeprs, or as Ural Dnjeprs, in Moscow, fought against the original German-produced BMW motorcycles. Finally the Germans lost. They never really reached Moscow. This did not have anything to do with the quality of the Russian motorcycles but with the freezing cold Russian winter climate.

Orlando's Ural Dnjepr is an air-cooled, four-stroke, two-valve boxer twin. Engine size: 650 cubical centimeters. A dry clutch with two plates is mounted between the flat engine and the four-speed gearbox. A shaft is connected between the gearbox and the rear wheel. Low compression pistons produce low output. The thing even seems to run on diesel fuel when hot or pre heated. A heavy duty and heavy, heavy frame holds everything together. Wheels with traditional rims, spokes and drum brakes. No center stand or jiffy needed because a side car is



An employee of the Motorcycle Shop Bonaire, Kaya Grandi 54, sitting on the buddy seat of a rare olive green painted Ural Dnepr side car combination. The Russian motorcycle is in an original and running condition. The tire tubes are in the need of some extra trade wind.

mounted. The side car has the shape of a Dutch wooden shoe and fire arms can be mounted on top of it, in front of the side car passenger. Of course Orlando owns a kind of civil variety of the Ural Dnepr.

Unfortunately the Russians never reached the high quality level of the German Beemers. Luckily over 3.2 million Dnjeprs are produced in the last decades. Spare parts are easy to get and very cheap. Do not sell your bike Orlando! ■

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer



SSS Advances

SSS photo

Special Security Service (S.S.S.) technicians, Ardis Apostel, George Dammers and Joseph Rodriguez (center, with certificates) recently passed the Honeywell Security advanced course in alarms and access control in Miami, Florida, and received their certification. They are shown here with the Honeywell instructor and classmates from the Caribbean and Latin America. No sooner had the technicians been back a week when the sophisticated alarm system and rapid action of S.S.S. personnel frustrated a thief's intention to break in at Warehouse Bonaire! S.S.S. has been in business for more than 27 years, offering their clients 24-hour security service, money transport, alarm and camera installation and more. They have often assisted the police in being first on the scene of attempted criminal acts and apprehending the offenders. Congratulations to the graduates, S.S.S. Director Benito Dirksz and his fine staff. ■ (press release/ translation by Laura DeSalvo)

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Sudoku Solution
Puzzle on page 7

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

Bon Quiz (from page 7)

BonQuiz Answer

Q) Which International Organization on Bonaire donated this monument to the Bonairean people?
A) The Lions Club

The PHU Speaks Out About The Referendum

With this edition *The Bonaire Reporter*, the island's English language newspaper, will begin publishing some articles in Spanish. The island has a larger native Spanish-speaking population than native English speaking, but, up until now, no published voice.

We are searching for stories of special interest to the Hispanic community, advertisers who support the effort and writers who are proficient in both languages. Let us know what you think about the idea of a Spanish language section. Email: reporter@bonairereporter.com

PARTIDO PRO HUSTISIA & UNION (PHU) OPINA SOBRE EL REFERÉNDUM

Estos últimos meses Bonaire ha sido el escenario de numerosos cambios a nivel político y social. Después del cambio de estatus de la mencionada isla efectuado el 10 de Octubre del presente año, sucesos importantes tomarán lugar, entre ellos, el próximo referéndum a efectuarse el 17 de Diciembre, en el cual la comunidad de Bonaire dará su opinión directa sobre la integración de Bonaire con Holanda.

En cuanto a este evento hay diferentes opiniones por parte de cada uno de los partidos políticos actuales. Considerando esto, hemos querido saber la opinión de uno de ellos, el partido Pro Hustisia & Union. El Partido Pro Hustisia & Union, es un partido que comenzó como una organización destinada a ayudar y defender a las personas necesitadas. Además, son promotores de la educación, ya que afirman que este aspecto es uno de los cuales ayudará a Bonaire a crecer y desarrollarse de manera rápida y efectiva. Siendo su énfasis principal la justicia e igualdad para todos los miembros que conforman la comunidad de Bonaire, el partido en cuestión tiene una posición particular en cuanto al referéndum del 17 de Diciembre.

Rafael Santana, actual presidente de dicho partido, expresa la posición de éste haciendo mención de dos aspectos. El primero de ellos es el beneficio personal que dice haber en este referéndum, lo cual expresó de la siguiente manera: "Toda la comunidad tiene derecho de su referéndum y debería votar, porque es algo que no se lo puede quitar ningún ser humano. Pero en este momento, viendo que lo que se está haciendo es una política para beneficio personal, lo mejor es no salir a hacer uso de ese derecho el 17 de Diciembre, no salir a votar". También menciona otro aspecto que según él, podría afectar el futuro de Bonaire, como lo es dar una respuesta negativa en el referéndum, votar no. Siendo que considera a Holanda como



Rafael Santana, President of the Party for Justice and Union, PHU

una pieza fundamental para el progreso de la isla, el votar NO "sería decirle no a Holanda, y esto podría afectar el bienestar de la comunidad", agregó. Tomando estos dos aspectos en cuenta indicó que "lo mejor es no ejercer el derecho de ir a votar este 17 de Diciembre, y de esa manera el referéndum no será válido."

De esta manera, mediante los puntos que se han mencionado, se ha reflejado de manera clara la posición del partido Pro Hustisia & Union. *(A menos que más del 50% de los casos los votantes una papeleta de los resultados del referéndum son nulas- ed.)*

Basados en el deseo de bienestar y adelanto de Bonaire, solo nos queda confiar en su comunidad, y esperar que se tome la mejor decisión que sin duda será trascendental para el futuro de nuestra hermosa isla. ■

Story & photo by Ivón Selassa



they highly promote education for they believe this aspect is one of which will help Bonaire to grow and develop rapidly and effectively. Because its principal emphasis is on justice and equality for all members of the community of Bonaire, the party has a strong position about the referendum on December 17.

Rafael Santana, current president of this party, expresses its position by mentioning two aspects. The first is the personal right that exists in this referendum. He expressed it this way, "Every community has the right of a referendum and the community should vote, for is something that no human being can take away from it. But in this situation, taking into account that it is being done for political and personal benefit, it is best not to use this right on December 17. Don't Vote."

He also mentions another aspect that in his opinion could affect the future of Bonaire, is to give a negative answer in the referendum, to vote NO. Considering Dutch involvement in the progress of the island, to vote no "would be to say no to Holland, and this could (negatively) affect the state of the community's welfare," he added. Taking these two aspects into account he said that "It is best not to exercise the right to vote, and this way the referendum would not be valid."

The position of the Pro Hustisia & Union party has been clearly defined: People **should not exercise their franchise to vote in this case.** *(Unless more than 50% of the eligible voters cast a ballot the results of the Referendum are void- ed.)*

Based on the desire of good will and advancement of Bonaire, we can only trust in this community and wait for the best decision to be made, that without a doubt, will have far-reaching implications in the future of our beautiful island. ■

Ivón Selassa

THE OPINION OF THE PRO HUSTISIA & UNION (PHU) PARTY ON THE REFERENDUM

Over the last few months Bonaire has been the scene of many changes in political and social conditions. After the change in the island's political status on October 10, 2010, important events have and will take place. Key is the referendum on December 17th. In this referendum the community of Bonaire will give its direct opinion about the integration of Bonaire with Holland that took place.

About this event, there are different opinions offered by political parties and individuals. We wanted to know the opinion of one of them, perhaps the most vocal about the Referendum, the Pro Hustisia & Union party.

The Pro Hustisia & Union party began as an organization whose goal was to help and defend people in need. Additionally,

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On Wednesday evening, November 17th, the NGO Platform Bonaire held a meeting with more than 60 participants of different Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to give information about an upcoming project. This new project to support the NGOs and promote volunteer work on the island is called "BON DOET, *hasi bon, pasa bon!*" and the good news is that all the NGOs can participate.

In The Netherlands the Oranje Fonds organizes a yearly volunteer action called NL DOET and in cooperation with the Oranje Fonds the NGO Platform is now realizing the Bonairean version called "BON DOET" (Bon Does). For this event all the NGOs are asked to sign up 'chores' they might have, which will be done on the 18th and/or 19th of March 2011 by new volunteers or existing volunteers who would like to try something different.

By participating, the NGOs get help with their chore, plus they get the chance to connect with new volunteers and promote their organization. The general public gets the opportunity to try volunteering for a day. They get to do something different, something new, and help a good cause. Because people will be asked to sign up together with their friends or family, co-workers or teammates it will become a fun day. In Holland they call the NL DOET ("the better way to spend your day out"). Bonaire will use the slogan: "*hasi bon, pasa bon*", which implies that when you do something good, you will feel good and have a good time too.

In the upcoming months the NGO Platform will be busy collecting different chores at the NGOs who want to participate. These chores can vary, and for example be at the location of a foundation: painting a clubhouse, sorting out play materials, cleaning a garden, maintenance on equipment and materials, etc. Another type of chores could be organizational, like drawing up a year plan, a calendar of events, making a website, etc. Or a chore could be an activity with the target group of the NGO, like a field-trip with the children of the kresh or a bingo for the elderly from the pasadia.

The NGO Platform can help plan and prepare for these chores. The experience in Holland has been very good and can help us save time and effort by using

their scripts. The chores are supposed to be for one morning or one afternoon, for a group of at least five people. All the chores will be collected and registered at the website of BON DOET: www.nldoet.nl/bonaire.

For the participating NGOs there is a financial contribution available to buy materials, like paint and brushes or to rent equipment like drilling machines, etc. The Oranje Fonds has an amount of \$ 650- maximum per chore-location. This means that for example FESBO can ask this amount for each of their centres. The Oranje Fonds has 1,5 million Euros for all the chores in Holland and Bonaire combined, but make sure to apply while funds are still available! The petitions to apply for this financial compensation have to be submitted at the NGO Platform before January 31st 2011.

Starting in January, the focus will shift more to attract the volunteers. This can be individuals, but also groups of co-workers, friends, family members, classmates, team-mates, etc. They can pick from a list of chores on www.nldoet.nl/bonaire which one they would like to sign up for.

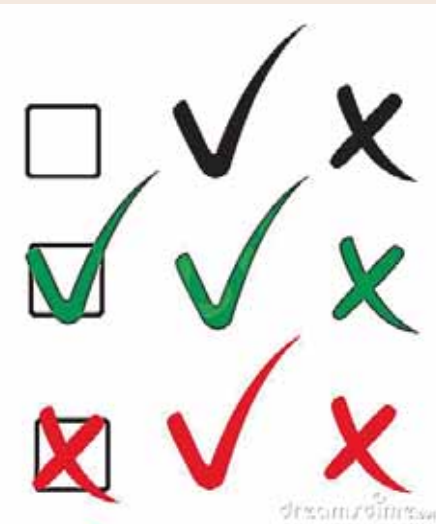
Because promotion is so important in this project, the NGO Platform has called in the help of Roosje van der Hoek of Coffie & van der Hoek B.V. She will help with the publicity and for example contacting different companies. This way the NGO Platform can stick to its core task: supporting the NGOs in the preparations and applications for funding.

There is more information in Papiamentu available on the website and of course also in Dutch and English at the NGO Platform office at Kaya Grandi 52 C. This is also where the NGOs can sign up the chores, apply for funding or get help with the preparations of their chores for BON DOET 2011.

The NGO platform will send out information to the press, via email and on facebook and of course www.nldoet.nl/bonaire. ■ *NGO Platform Bonaire, Annemarie Klöne*

NGO Platform Bonaire
Kaya Grandi 52C
Kralendijk, Bonaire N.A.
Tel:717-2366 Fax:717-2367

The Man Who Pushed For This Referendum



Anthony Nicolaas speaks about Bonaire about the yes or the no of the Referendum set for December 17th on Norwin Leito's Radio Digital show

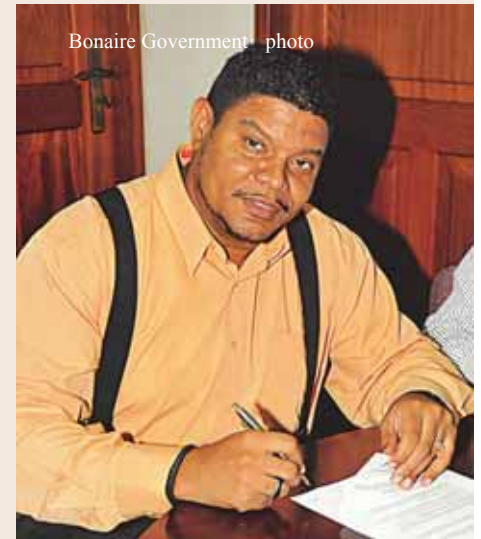
The microphone was tested and we could start. To me **Anthony Nicolaas** is a gentleman with good manners. He is kind, relaxed, and very friendly. Even though he has a high position in this community, he is not conceited or arrogant at all. He was born on the 12th of October of 1974 on this island. He finished his high school in Curaçao and continued with the study of Constitutional Law and obtained his master's degree in this field. Some listeners started phoning in to the radio. Most of them wanted to know if it is worthwhile to go vote. Well, Mr. Anthony put emphasis on the word "right". He said that many people do not understand the word right since this word is **abstract**. He said that when a **concrete** word is being used, most of the people will understand. He mentioned that a referendum is a right that was put into the International Law of the United Nations.

One listener asked what would happen if the majority chooses for **NO**. Mr. Nicolaas said that there are a few possibilities. By voting for **no**, the citizens of Bonaire are saying that they do not agree with the fact that Bonaire has become a public entity of Holland. If this happens, the government of Bonaire will go around the table again with the Dutch Parliament with other proposals.

Such as:

- 1) **Laso Directo ku asociashon liber.** This is a straight connection with Holland without working together with the other islands.
- 2) **Outónomo den Reino.** This is like the case of Aruba, the **Status Aparte**.
- 3) **Integrashon total.** Here Bonaire will be directly under the wings of Holland, thus, a sort of municipality of Holland.
- 4) **Independence.** If Bonaire chooses for independence, Bonaire will be able to make its own decisions and doesn't have to negotiate anything with Holland anymore. In other words, we'll be the boss in our own house. If the majority votes for **yes**, Bonaire will stay the way it is right now: a public entity of Holland.

According to Mr. Nicolaas, Holland did



Commissioner Anthony Nicolaas

not give Bonaire what they promised. He said that we have been deceived. It is more like giving up all our autonomy and getting nothing in return. Then I asked him what actually the gain of being integrated into Holland was. He said that only a few things can be mentioned. Such as the new prisons (in order to lock up the locals), investment in schools, hospitals. Nevertheless, we do not have the same rights as the Dutch in Holland do. He referred especially to the standard of life of Bonaire. Most of us are living quite below our standard and that is not what Holland promised in 2004. He also illustrated that the citizens themselves bought this captivity by voting **YES** for direct ties with The Netherlands and breaking the link with the Netherlands Antilles Central Government.

Then I asked Mr. Nicolaas whether we could talk about third class citizens. He said not third class, but fourth class citizens. The sad thing about this is the fact that the citizens were not well informed at that time. We are forced to say then, that they did not know what they were really voting for. That is why most of the citizens say: "They lied to us."

Finally I said to Mr. Nicolaas that politicians in general are not illiterate people. In general they are people with high educations. How is it possible then, that they did not read a document carefully before signing it? Well, I am sorry, but I do not dare to say what his answer on this question was, as I do not remember this part accurately. Mr. Anthony Nicolaas finished his speech, saying that he advises everyone who has the right to vote, to go vote and especially to make a good choice. Those who have listened carefully to the radio program are definitely able to conclude whether Mr. Nicolaas is trying to persuade the people to go for "no" or for "yes."

According to our source, Nicolaas himself will vote NO.

And what about you, are you going for "NO" or for "YES"? ■

Norwin Leito



Pet of the Week

A Very Happy Ending to a Very Sad Story:

Remember Sammy, the abused and neglected dog that was pictured in *The Reporter* October 8-22? He was in such horrible shape, skinny and sick, but there was something about him that made the Shelter manager decide not to euthanize him. It was a good call because now Sammy, in wonderful health, is now up for adoption. Thanks to the vet, the staff and the volunteers at the Animal Shelter Sammy is now in terrific and robust health. His sores and the nasty results of starvation are cured. He has a wonderful attitude, gets very attached to people and loves to play. He's also good with other dogs and he loves cats, because he was raised with a little kitten (so we heard) and the two of them were inseparable. See him at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com ■

Laura DeSalvo



Sammy: As he looks now at the top. As he was shortly after he was brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter.

Greta Kooistra photos

Help Wanted at the Bonaire Animal Shelter



Shelter photo

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www.animalshelterbonaire.com

We are looking for volunteers who want to help us on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, cleaning the kennels, feeding and taking care of the dogs and cats in the Shelter. Working hours 8 to 10 in the morning. If you want to help us, please contact Marlies, Greta or Monique at the Animal Shelter!! Tel: 717-4989 or just come by!

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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

See a Double Cluster of Stars Beloved by Ancient Chinese Astronomers Plus Venus Dazzles Before Dawn

Although we usually talk about very bright, easy-to-find, obvious objects in the night sky in the Sky Park, every once in a while we like to entice you to look for less bright and less obvious objects, which have hidden beauty. And such is the case this week because I am going to show you two tiny clouds which have been seen and admired by hundreds of generations and which were written about as far back as the times of TSung-K'ang, the fourth reigning monarch of the Hsai dynasty of ancient China over 4,000 years ago.

During the end of November and early December between 8 and 10 pm, face north where you will see five bright stars which if connected by lines trace out a slightly squashed out capital letter 'm'. This is the constellation named for the ancient queen of Ethiopia, **Cassiopeia**. And just off to her right is a rather free form shape of stars which if connected by lines would look like an ancient hero of Greek mythology, **Perseus**.

Now off to the right of Perseus is perhaps the most famous cluster of stars known and which I speak about frequently. It's easily seen if there is no bright moonlight and is called the **Pleiades**, although most people refer to it as the **Seven Sisters**. But there are two dimmer clusters of stars, to which most people pay little attention because they're not nearly as bright. And I suggest you look for them when there is no bright **Moon** out. Simply look between Cassiopeia and Perseus and they'll look like two tiny faint clouds. And the farther you are away from city lights the brighter they will appear.

If you look at them through binoculars or a small telescope you will see that there are dozens of stars in each cluster looking very much like the Seven Sisters. In fact they are the same kind of cluster as the Seven Sisters. The only reason they look different to the naked eye is because they are almost 20 times farther away, about 7,500 light years away compared to the 400 light years distance of the



Double Cluster in Perseus

Pleiades. This group is simply called the **Double Cluster in Perseus**. And there are at least 300 to 400 stars in each cluster, many of which are great blazing supergiants of almost unimaginable brilliance, thousands of times larger than our own **Sun**.

And we are racing toward them at the incredible speed of 26 miles per second. So some dark night this November and December go outside between the hours of 8 and 10 pm. Face north, look first for Cassiopeia, then for Perseus and right between them the wonderful Double Cluster of stars whose light left them over 7,500 years ago, which means that we see them as they existed almost 8 millennia ago.

For you early birds **Venus** is putting on quite a show in the east before dawn and she's about as bright as she can get, reaching her brightest for this go round in early December. Venus has also been getting higher every morning but this climbing and brightening is about to come to an end as Venus starts her long, slow curve back towards the Sun. Venus orbits closer to the Sun than we do so her orbit never lets her get too far away from the Sun in the sky; 46 degrees is about as far as she ever gets. Venus will also dim slightly as she gets farther away from us. At the beginning of December Venus is about 37 million miles away from **Earth**, but by the end of the month she has receded about 20 million miles and her light takes almost 2 minutes longer to get here. So catch Venus now at her brightest. ■

Chris Trigg



Café Astrology December 2010

ARIES --

March 20th - April 20th
Travel beckons on the 7th. Creativity is yours on and around the 10th—see what you can do. If you can manage not to be impatient around the 24th, you can accomplish quite a lot. Work becomes more of a focus after the 29th.

TAURUS --

April 20th - May 21st
If you buy it on the 2nd, you will pay too much. Good luck is yours at work around the 7th. A creative idea could bring more money into your career around the 16th. Change is positive on the 22nd.

GEMINI --

May 21st - June 21st
You have some really good ideas on the 3rd but watch out for impulsiveness on the 4th. Avoid an argument with your partner on the 15th by keeping your thoughts to yourself. Don't be too hard on yourself on the 24th.

CANCER --

June 21st - July 22nd
Your low energy on the 7th and 8th picks right up again by the 10th. Dreams have a very powerful message for you on the 21st. Avoid any extra caffeine on the 22nd or you won't be able to sleep. An abundance of ideas are yours on the 29th.

LEO --

July 22nd - August 23rd
You sparkle and shine all of this month as planet Jupiter enters your sign. You are especially attractive on the 7th through the 8th and love may definitely be on your horizon. You are hot, hot, hot on the 10th, too. Money becomes more important after the 23rd.

VIRGO --

August 23rd - September 22nd
A dream has an important message about your career on the 3rd. Folks are likely to see things more your way after the 6th. Don't try to manipulate others on the 15th. Money becomes more of a focus after the 26th.

LIBRA --

September 23rd - October 23rd
Don't be too hard on yourself on the 2nd. Everyone agrees with you more after the 7th. You definitely sparkle and shine on the 12th. Creativity is yours on or around the 16th. Communication flows on the 22nd.

SCORPIO --

October 23rd - November 22nd
Taking action on a career idea could mean more money on the 5th. Following up on the 6th closes the deal. Don't believe everything friends tell you on the 15th. You are very lucky with money around the 26th.

SAGITTARIUS --

November 22nd - December 21st
Travel beckons all this month. Friends want to get together on the 8th. Communication flows on the 16th and is particularly stellar with your partner on the 21st. Career plans become more important to you after the 23rd.

CAPRICORN --

December 21st - January 20th
Find a solo project for work on the 2nd. Money from previous work could be yours on the 19th. Changes in the workplace could bring more happiness into your life on or around the 21st. Don't get into trouble by saying too much on the 24th.

AQUARIUS --

January 20th - February 19th
Avoid an argument with your partner on the 4th by keeping silent. The desire for freedom is particularly strong on the 19th. You definitely sparkle and shine on the 21st and you also want to have fun, fun, fun.

PISCES --

February 19th - March 20th
Much energy goes into your work in the beginning of this month and particularly on and around the 10th. Dream activity is very high on the 16th. There are some hints on how to make your dreams come true on the 21st. Partners become more important after the 23rd. ■

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