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The REPORTER

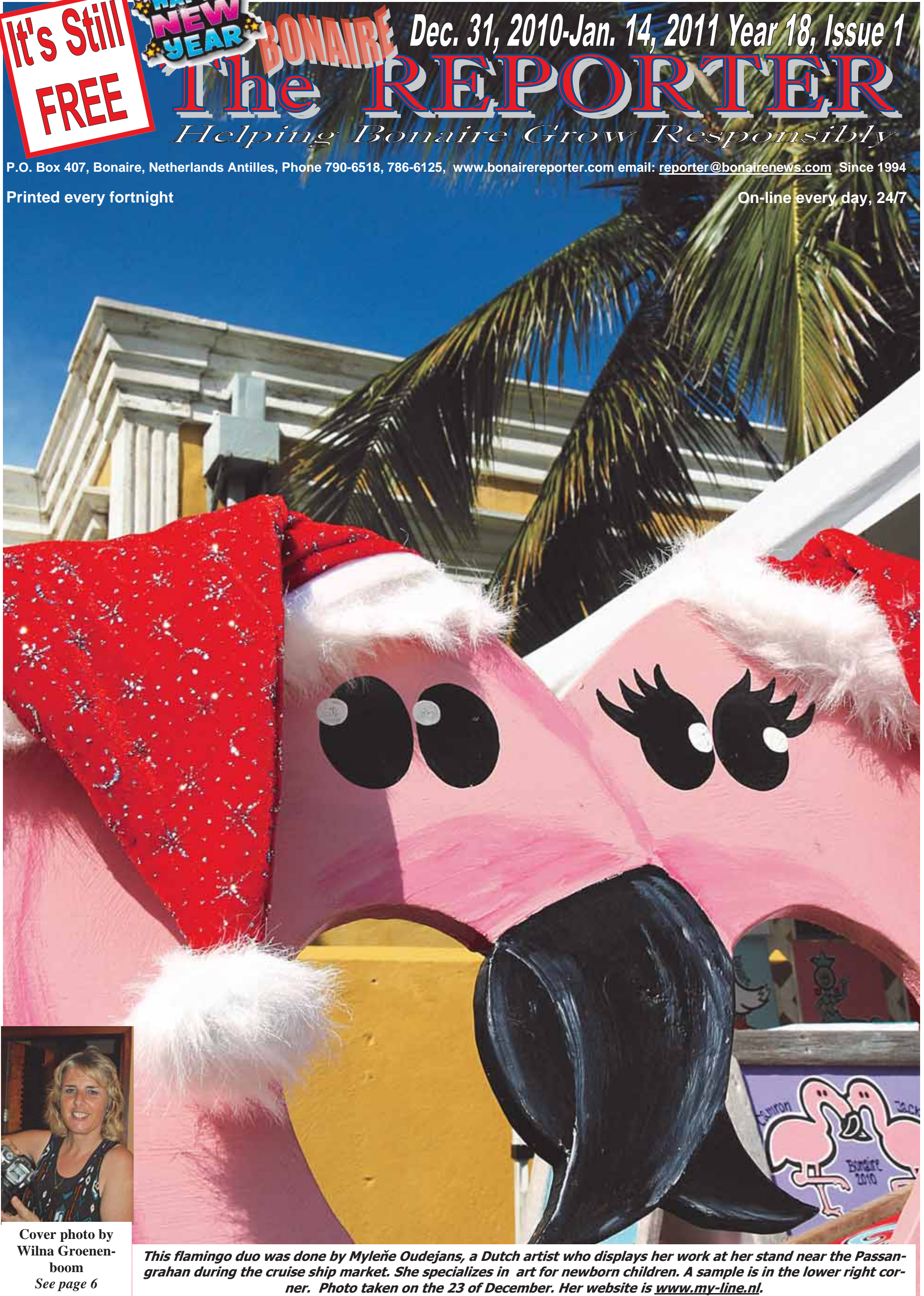
Dec. 31, 2010-Jan. 14, 2011 Year 18, Issue 1

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Cover photo by
Wilna Groenen-
boom
See page 6

This flamingo duo was done by Myleñe Oudejans, a Dutch artist who displays her work at her stand near the Passan-grahan during the cruise ship market. She specializes in art for newborn children. A sample is in the lower right corner. Photo taken on the 23 of December. Her website is www.my-line.nl.



The Dutch magic wand will wave over Bonaire right after midnight on December 31. Guilders will be transformed into dollars in the banks, all residents will get free medical care, including eyeglasses and dentistry, and the island will become a free port.

Last week most eligible voters expressed their position by choosing not to vote in the recent Referendum that might have spoiled the magic trick.

What will these and other changes mean to the people who call Bonaire their home? Economically things should boom. Observe the new investments and businesses already being made by Dutch and Chinese businessmen—two of the most business-savvy groups on the planet.

Sales tax will disappear from receipts of both locals and visitors. It is a fact that Bonaire's economy plummeted in the 90s when the sales tax was introduced. Coincidence? Maybe.

Bonaire kids will get better education, social support programs will make a better life especially for the disadvantaged and aged. A robust Justice system should reduce crime.

Besides repaving the airport runway there is not much in the new arrangements that include improving infrastructure, discouraging corruption, preserving island culture and protecting the relatively unspoiled natural environment that makes Bonaire a great place to live and a consistently winning vacation spot.

►The case brought by the PHU political party to reverse the Dutch Parliament's restriction on non-citizen voting in BES Island elections, a practice permitted in European Holland, will be dealt with in court on Bonaire on January 3, 2011, at 9:30 am. Anybody can follow the case from the public gallery in court. All local political parties in the BES-islands (except the Democratic Party (DP) of Bonaire and Statia) have declared in writing that they support the cause. The DP of Bonaire, however, has verbally stated its support. The case asks that immigrants who've lived more than five years in Bonaire have the right to vote in local elections.

►A 59-year old passenger, Timothy J. Scheibel, fell while **stepping off the Emerald Princess on her Bonaire December 14 visit and injured his neck**, according to his friends and family members. He received immediate medical aid from but it was decided to fly him by air ambulance to Miami. There Mr Scheibel died due to complications during surgery. Our condolence to his family.



►The Bonaire Prosecutor plans to crack down on those **people who haven't paid outstanding fines**. There are a large number of persons who have ignored letters from the Prosecutor asking them to pay up. Those who refuse to pay will wind up as guests of the new jail, warned a press release from the office. To pay now the following accounts can be used: MCB 402.917.08, RBTT 18087299, Orco Bank 760100, Girobank 21.00.000, Banco di Caribe 30638801. For those unable to pay, jail time will be the alternative. For more information contact the **Ministerio Publiko at 717-8626**

Picture Yourself With The Reporter ... Underwater Around Klein Bonaire



Eco Divers Leo Hoogenboom and Felix Faassen spend a moment with *The Bonaire Reporter* during training for the Eco Dive here on Bonaire. They will raise money for STINAPA and Sea Turtle Conservation by diving around Klein Bonaire in one single dive. The dive is taking place as we go to press (December 27). It is more than 10 km. (6.8 miles) in length and will take the divers 12-16 hours to complete. During the dive the team will be assisted by a surface support team. In this way they would like to raise awareness for the conservation of Bonaire's nature and animals so that people of Bonaire and abroad can continue enjoy this unique eco system now and in the future. We hope to have a story in the next issue. The event is made possible by Captain Don's Habitat. For more information and to make a donation go to: <http://www.ecodivebonaire.com/>

Another Picture Yourself is on page 12

►On January 5, 2011, the **Bonaire Chamber of Commerce (Kamer van Koophandel) will open in its new home at Kaya Grandi # 67** (former BonFysio location). The Chamber of Commerce is open Monday to Friday from 8am-noon, 2-5 pm.. Contact: Email secretary@kvkbonaire.com; E-mail: board@kvkbonaire.com Tel. No.: 717-5595; Tel. No.: 717-5695; Fax. No.: 717-8995

►ARUBA--Aruba Ports Authority (APA) announced that **local as well as international yachts and sailing boats using its harbors of Oranjestad and Barcadera will have to pay an hourly tax per January 1, 2011.**

This port fee must be paid for each hour spent in the harbors. It applies even if they are just clearing Customs and Immigration. The rates are as follows: On

workdays from 8 am to 4 pm—17.50 Aruban florins per hour. Other times—25 florins per hour. The port fee must be paid in cash before leaving the harbor. For more information contact the security service of APA at telephone number 582-6633 (ext. 150) or 582-4216, or send an email to ports.security@arubaports.com

►WILLEMSTAD--Curaçao-based **Insel Air resumed its flights to Haiti on December 11 making it the first foreign airline to do so.** Due to the turmoil after the official announcement and reaction to the recent election result, all international carriers suspended service to and from Port au Prince.

After thorough consultation with the local aviation authority

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Hasi bon, pasa bon!

The Great Bonaire Give-away

In the last week, reliable sources reported that the Bonaire government is planning to break up the former Sunset Beach property and allow several developers to build luxury homes and/or condos at the site.

If the reports are true, the government is ignoring a recent poll that shows more than 80% of local Antilleans want to see the beach become a public amenity. Only 19% favored a large hotel and less than 2% opted for luxury housing on this site.

"If this is true, we are very, very concerned," said Sherwin Pourier, president of Fundashon Playa Públiko (i.o). "This is especially disturbing because over 2,000 Antilleans said they did NOT want a large hotel or houses at that site. The politicians and government have not met with our Foundation yet to hear our proposal."

"We call upon the government to show some transparency," said Pourier of Fundashon Playa Públiko. "Please talk to us and listen to our proposal. Fundashon Playa Públiko is dedicated to developing the property in a manner that will have maximum economic benefit for Bonaireans and create a prime tourism location that preserves and enhances public access to the beach."

According to Elsmarie Beukenboom, Fundashon Playa Públiko has created a plan for the Sunset Beach area which would develop the property intelligently. "We have a plan that would help support and create local businesses but would also create a public park for residents, tourists and cruise ship passengers. Our plan would not only create new jobs and businesses but would also keep the profits on the island."

"While the government seems to be saying the public would still have access to the beach, our history shows that this is just lip-service," said Beukenboom. "How many Bonaireans can really use the beach at Harbour Village? How easy is it to reach the various beaches and access points in Sabadeco? Is Plaza Resort a comfortable place for local people to take their families? No. All of these sites and more are either completely off limits, no longer accessible from land without trespassing or are so unwelcoming that local people won't go there."

According to Fundashon Playa Públiko, Bonaire should not devote any of this magnificent public

(Continued on page 17)



Thanks to Dick and Janny de Jong-Lohuis for these beach photos from the mid-80s





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On the Island Since... January 2008 - Eveline

“In a nutshell: We moved from Amsterdam to Curacao when I was nine. When I was 17 we moved to America: Lancaster, Pennsylvania. I surely didn't fit in, so I moved to a more metropolitan area, Philadelphia, but close enough to my mom and dad. I was looking for like-minded people; it's important when you're an artist to merge with like-minded people to inspire each other to grow. Then I met the father of my children, who is an amazing designer, and we set up our own company. We started off designing jewelry, bags, clothes and small items. One thing led to another and we ended up designing big restaurants.

In Philadelphia I was merged with movers and shakers- those who start change – and it inspired my own personal vision of what I

wanted out of life. I really felt at home with them. Then my vision came to me in the midst of that field of energy and while raising my two boys I worked out the details of my vision.

My mission is: Giving other people the opportunity to heal through the (he)art – sharing the healing bliss of being in creative energies. I organized poetry and story telling evenings at my studio for children and adults. It was about engagement and exchange of energy.

But then things fell apart when my brother-in-law fell sick with aids and my focus changed. I was asked to be a care giver and I happily obliged. After he passed away, my mother got sick with a brain tumor. I realized why I had the experience with Paul, my brother-in-law, because now I could embrace her illness and be

a care giver to her as well. I did so for a year and after my mom had passed away I took care of my dad for four years. So, after nine years of taking care of others, I myself started suffering from exhaustion and I began to look for a place of refuge.

At that time my youngest son turned 18, so I felt I could walk away without guilt. My two boys, Leksander, (22) and To-shiro (20), empower my journey on earth and encouraged me to look for a place to heal. They live in the US and they are my biggest teachers and supporters.” *She grabs a white handkerchief, dries her tears and smiles.* “That happens when I think of my boys...

When I started looking for a place to live, I asked the universe for three things: I wanted to speak Dutch, I wanted it to be warm and I wanted friends. It was a lot to ask, but the universe did provide: Bonaire. When I came to Bonaire, Germaine Nijdam and Donna Dovale – who were friends from my past on Curacao - embraced me immediately and they made me feel at home. They introduced me to their friends and my new life began right away.

With my vision still in my heart, I met Annemiek Le Noble and her vision and mine had a moment together because we both wanted to facilitate growth for children on Bonaire by giving workshops – any workshop that enables you to grow. I started my store in organic skin-care at Bonaire Basics and together we did some beautiful things. Then personal circumstances necessitated me to use my year of rent that I had saved for Annemiek, and I was forced to close down. But in retrospect it was the catalyst for my own personal healing.

And this is where I come in about the magic energy of Bonaire – because Bonaire IS a very magical place. Now I am going to say something very bold: I personally believe that people are pulled in by Bonaire's magical energy to face the self – to face your truth and deal with it. This



island gives you a confrontation with the self, wherever that may lead. And so, in search of healing my own self, I created my book, Stepping Stones to Self. In doing so, I realized the importance of my mission, 'healing through the (he)art', by experiencing it first hand, because while I was writing, my book was healing me, which authorized me to express the passion that drives my mission.

Last October Stepping Stones was published. People can buy it at Interiours in Kaya Grandi. Also, I just finished my novel, The book of Lillith, which will be published in March. So, the creative energies I absorbed and experienced on Bonaire have

(Continued on page 5)

“I learned that in passing the love, the love passes on. Any act of kindness is contagious – it's all about love.”

			
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(Continued from page 4)

given me an avenue to make a living as an artist.

When I met Lous Rood, she became a very important person in my life. Through her workshops she enabled me to open a bigger pathway to my creative self. I started painting and sculpting and I realized how important it was for my vision to become a reality."

Eveline is an explosion of energy, a warm and caring lady, and her house is like an island of peace, with flowers, books and art and burning candles in front of each photograph – little ongoing prayers for the people she cares about.

"Bonaire turned out to be the place of rebirth for me and I am very, very, grateful. I hope to have my home base here for a long time to come – my beautiful home, can you imagine? I can never give this up! This is the place where I want to run around with my grandchildren! I am a soul roaming the earth, but Bonaire will always be my place of tranquility to find peace and stillness in this wild and wacky, wonderful world.

With my newfound energy I am compelled to take my vision into the big world and any art center or group of people could facilitate this as I want to give people the opportunity to experience this great feeling by giving workshops, 'Healing through the (he)art,' – based on the marriage of art and spirit. That is what I want to create via my writing and other artistic self expressions. That is my contribution to the world.

Then I found this group of like-minds on the internet, called the Evolutionary Collective. With their support I was able

to grow spiritually and transform into a creative entity contributing to the healing of the earth. That's important. At this point, being part of a collective, I am able to realize my vision with their support.

Now I am writing a spiritual play that will be an experiential workshop abroad called The Marriage of Spirituality and Art, where people can heal through the (he)art.

Everybody is creative and capable of creating something. That's the magic of divine energy we all have inside of us. Often people feel they cannot be creative when it's really a matter of opening themselves up to it. By becoming creative it puts you in another dimension because with art your spirit speaks through your heart center and bypasses the ego, which is your mind. It's a magical experience, an explosion of joy that soars through your entire body and it changes you as a person. It transforms you; your whole life will change.

Now we are entering a new world – Terra Nova – the vibrational energies are accelerating rapidly. This new energy.." *She laughs.* "– I don't want to sound like a hippy – is love. It is all about love – unity conscious, oneness – your love and mine are the same. And in this new world we communicate through the heart. My book, Stepping Stones, prepares the Self for these new energies by explaining the connection between body, mind and spirit.

We are entering the Age of Aquarius and the new Buddha is the Collective. I have always said 'I can do this alone', but I have learned that when you bundle the energies, your inner light grows stronger.

I am the spokesperson for change. We



are done with greed, violence and manipulation and we are moving into a world that is based on heart-centered action: love, compassion and abundance. It is my opinion that the marriage of art and spirituality is the bridge.

Since I was young I have always been highly sensitive and intuitive but I was misunderstood because I have high energy. It's the energy of enthusiasm really but it's overwhelming for myself and others sometimes. I was repressed for a long time. So, thank the Goddess of Bonaire who cradled me while I was looking at myself and who enabled me to come out like a shining light. I learned that in passing the love, the love passes on. Any act of kindness is contagious – it's all about love.

We have been manipulated by governments, by radio and television to fan fear and anxiety. Turn off your television and get to a better place. Change fear into curiosity and surround yourself with beautiful things and your heart will resonate beauty and love." ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra

Eveline's websites: www.evelinebodymindspirit.com and www.evolutionarycollective.com

Eveline's books and cards are available at Interiours and The Natural Way health food store.



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Day of North Saliña / Dia di Nort di Saliña



Greta Kooistra photos

Rodeliandra Alba, Shaheely Mercera and Nayeli Lugo enjoyed the festivities

The very first *Dia di Nort di Saliña* was celebrated on Wednesday, December 15th at its Community Center. One of the people who took the initiative for this wonderful festival is Alex Semeleer. "We felt we needed more social activities in the village, but to organize such you need money and so we founded 'Fundashon Nawati.' We immediately got subsidized by the government to celebrate 'The Day of Nort di Salina' and from now on it will be a yearly event on the 15th of December.

During the preparations we got a tremendous response from the people. Everyone thought it was just a great idea! We also founded a dancing group and that day they performed two dances – without one mistake! Further, we invited many differ-

ent bands and two of our own: one of all youngsters and the other one of people over 35, a Mariachi group called 'Nos Ichos del Pueblo.'

The chairman of the board is Gilbert Alberto and I am the secretary and we are planning to organize many more events in this beautiful and authentic village. We are working on having some Caiquetio Indians come over from Venezuela, because there's where our roots come from. So we are hoping to find out more about our original life style and, who knows, there might be still similarities in our way of living!

This day has been a tremendous success: *hopi ambiente*, a lot of ambiance, and a lot of joy for people of all ages, visitors and people from *Nort di Salina* who were taking great pride in this very special day – THEIR day! There were seven police officers who have been standing here all day and night – and as far as their work was concerned, they were bored stiff!" ■ Greta Kooistra



The Mercera family and friends at the Dia di Nort di Saliña



The Sounds of Music!

On December 19th, the students of the music school put on a great performance at Plaza Resort. The youngsters played classical music on the piano, then joined together for the first time in a band under the direction of their teacher, Mr. Giovanni Mercera. The youngest participant in the band is seven years old; he played the percussion.

Four adult ladies, under the direction of Mr. Siegfried Molina, performed pieces on

their guitars and all did well. The coordination was great.

We have great expectations of these students at the music school. Support the music school for the sake of our future, our children. If you can help, contact Siegfried Molina at 523-9161 or at the music school every day from Monday to Friday after 2pm for donations or information. ■ Story & Photo by Siomara Albertus

Wilna Groenenboom

Author/Photographer/Artist/Teacher Wilna Groenenboom is on Bonaire for a couple of weeks, doing some of the final research and photos for her upcoming book, "An Architectural Journey Through Bonaire." Wilna, a former teacher at the SGB (high school) is the author of "Document Bonaire," a book of photos recording the Bonaire of the last decade.



Groenenboom did a popular series for *The Reporter*, called "Antique Living Houses of

Bonaire," focusing on some of the island's venerable buildings, some of which no longer exist. "I always knew I wanted to continue with this subject," Wilna explains. "An Architectural Journey through Bonaire" is an extension and much more of that series, "Not only the architecture, the people, the culture, the past history, the things around it." Her research has even taken her to Ghana in Africa where she found some of the same styles and building techniques as are in Bonaire. The book will be out in early summer, 2011. ■ Laura DeSalvo

Your Healthcare Is Our Business

The New Year will bring a new era in healthcare for Bonaire. On 1 January 2011 all current medical insurance plans covering workers, government employees and the private sector will cease to exist. These plans will be replaced by a compulsory health insurance program for all residents of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius to be known as Zorgverzekering Caribisch Nederland (Dutch Caribbean Healthcare Insurance).

The Zorgverzekering Caribisch Nederland is a comprehensive general health insurance plan. Nonetheless there will be limitations that may be covered by supplemental medical insurance. We have years of experience working cooperatively with medical insurers **Fatum** and **Ennia** so can provide sound and detailed advice regarding options for enhancing the compulsory plan.

MCB Bonaire is a trusted full-service insurance broker. Our staff has years of experience in the insurance industry and is well acquainted with the Bonaire consumer and their needs. We invite you to contact us as soon as possible for more information about supplementing your new basic healthcare plan. Our staff can assist you in Dutch, Papiamentu, English, Spanish or German.

We remain, always at your service!

Valarie, Ubi, Wim, Omar, Janella and Rudsel

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BONAIREAN VOICES

THE RINCON CHRISTMAS MARKET



Maria Johnita Albertus-Marcera

Rincon has been having its outdoor Marchés every Saturday for the past 13 years, and this year they celebrated their 13th Christmas Marché. At the Marché people from Rincon can exhibit their products. It could be anything: art, groceries, natural medicines, plants, produce from their farms, delicious home made cakes and drinks, cookies, bread and especially Rincon krioyo food. During this year's Christmas Marché there were all kinds of Christmas delights. I had a nice conversation with my mother who's been participating in this market from the start, for 13 years already. Some of you might remember her, Mrs. Maria Johnita Albertus-Marcera (72), who was on the cover of the 14th issue of *The Bonaire Reporter*, in the story about "Dia di Arte." She told me about her ambitions in art in the past and in the present.

As she starts explaining how she became engaged in art, she confesses, "From a very young age I liked art work. I always wanted to be an expert in not only custom tailoring, but also in arts and crafts. I was born and went to school in Bonaire. I took different courses but never had the opportunity to be a school teacher in art. In the past you had to have money to finance your studies. It's not like now when you can get a government loan and pay it back later. In those days if you didn't have the money or a family who could sponsor you, you couldn't get far enough to become a professional. But with all the courses that I took I feel like I became more than an art teacher.

When I was living in Curaçao I had the opportunity to give lessons in the community centers and even at my house. I hadn't learned just about clothing, but also painting, ceramics and flower making. I loved my work so much that when I had my three children - Siomara, Gerald and Thirthza - I quit my regular job and began working at home doing tailoring and art work. I couldn't ever quit this job. I'd get up in the morning, do my household chores, take care of my children, then start with my art orders that people had been asking for. And I took custom tailoring very seriously too, because my clients liked to have nice new dresses for all celebrations. It was a full time job and I had to buy a second sewing machine so a friend could come and help me.

I had been hired to give lessons in a community center in Curaçao at that time for troubled children called 'Hubentut Setenta' (the youths of the 70s) and I gave art lessons to both girls and boys.

To upgrade my knowledge in tailoring I took design courses and when I got my diploma I started sewing for weddings,

first communions and carnivals. It was hard work and tiring, but I never quit. I participated in art festivals in Curaçao 'Punda and Otrobanda' (both are commercial centers of downtown Willemstad, Curaçao) and it was good advertising for my work. In December you made your Christmas art objects and sold it all.

But today it's quite different. Stores are stocked with all kinds of decorations and art work. The artist can't sell all his or her work like they did in the past. They need to make other kinds of items to sell that are not found in stores. My opinion is that we need to continue with a focus on art.

At its start 13 years ago the Rincon Marché was at its best. During these past 13 years it's experienced a tremendous drop in visitors. Some of the stand holders have stopped coming and they were good artists. The Marché is facing some hard times now compared with its early years. I don't know what is going on. We have a lot of tourists visiting, people who live in Playa, but unfortunately few Rincon people.

During the time I was living in Curaçao I used to come to Bonaire to participate in the Regatta Festival and the Art Day (Dia di Arte) of Emma Sint Jago. When I moved back to Bonaire after living in Curaçao for 48 years I wished we had a market in Rincon where we could exhibit our arts and crafts. We got it and now we need to keep it alive. I wish the Rincon Marché would continue. I'm aging and can't continually participate, but the youngsters can, and my dearest wish is for them to take the Marché seriously and show their talent and art work. In the beginning they might feel the money is too little, but they have to start with that little income for it to become more."

My mother is married to my father, Guan Albertus (76), and they live together in Rincon. Rincon is a wonderful city for them and for me too. Both of them were born in Rincon and because of work they went to Curaçao at a very young age, where I, Siomara, my bother Gerald and sister Thirthza were born. We are Bonairean and descendants of the "Barrio di Rincon," from where the Family Albertus-Marcera send you the best wishes for the Holidays.

■ Story & photo by Siomara Albertus



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

Latin Music Classics



"Guantanamera, guajira, Guantanamera."

Most of the Latin Music Lovers know these words of this legendary Latin Classic: Guantanamera.

"Guantanamera" (which means girl from Guantánamo) is perhaps the best known song of its home country and that country's most noted patriotic song. It was written by Joseito Fernandez in 1929. It is an almost ideal combination of real poetry with a great piece of music. The music is melodically beautiful and rhythmically, what makes the song a real big hit all over the world.

Just like what happens to the other Latin Classic, "La Bamba," "Guantanamera" lent itself from the beginning to become a standard song on the repertoire of many Latin artists like Celia Cruz, Wyclef Jean, the Gipsy Kings, Jose Feliciano, The Buena Vista Social Club and many more.

Jody's Music Quiz

Last week's answer: The name of our own Steel band is: "The Silver Bullet Steel band."

Klaus Kolbe came up with the answer and is the winner of a CD. He can pick up his free CD at Jody's at Lagoen Hill #18.

This week's question:

Where is Guantanamo located?

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

Please send your answer to:

info@jodysbonaire.com and be entered in a drawing to win a CD of your own choice in Jody's shop at Lagoen Hill #18. The winner of this week's contest will be announced in the next edition



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

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

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

BonQuiz #44



SLAVE HUTS

When driving south along the shore you'll see two sets of "slave huts" that have been renovated over the years. The roofs originally were thatched but have been replaced with marine plywood to avoid continuous maintenance.

The slaves who worked the salt ponds during the week slept here over night, protected from the elements. They did not live here.

Q) What year were these slave huts built?

Answer on page 17

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 17.**

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

Universal Medical Care

After the first of the year all legal residents of Bonaire will have government-paid health insurance. The payroll/income tax-financed coverage, one result of Bonaire's integration with The Netherlands, is very broad and almost all-inclusive. Upgrades to higher service levels will be available from private insurers as well.

The RCN, the Dutch government service that administers the program for the BES Islands, released a set of frequently asked questions about the new coverage.

How can persons who do not have an ID card prove they are registered?

They can request a declaration of place of residence at the Civil Registry Office (*Bevolking*).

With the new health insurance can I get health care abroad?

Yes, if it is a medical referral, otherwise the health insurance compensates (in part) only care for emergency cases with or without hospital admittance which cannot wait until return to the Dutch Caribbean. In those cases contact must be made with the RCN Health Insurance Office as soon as possible. The compensation will be maximized at the price level of the Dutch Caribbean. All other care abroad will not be compensated.

I am traveling abroad, should I seek additional insurance?

The Health Insurance Office is advising everyone to arrange travel insurance before traveling abroad. The health insurance will grant the right to compensation only for emergency care where the compensation is maximized at the price level of Dutch Caribbean. All other care abroad will not be covered.

How is a student studying overseas insured?

A student remains insured if he goes elsewhere to study full-time. Studying must be associated with living in the Dutch Caribbean and the concerned must be younger than 30 years. It does not matter where the study takes place. If a student requires care abroad he is entitled to compensation of the costs of that care whereby the compensation is maximized to the price level of Dutch Caribbean. It is the responsibility for the student to secure supplementary insurance. The Health Insurance Office has no role in this.

To what type of treatment am I entitled to at the dentist?

Insured people younger than 18 years are entitled to broad dental care. What the insured is exactly entitled to at the dentist is described in detail in the health insurance package brochure.

Adults 18 years and older are entitled to a one-time course of dental treatment.



The course of dental treatment comprises X-ray, anesthesia, restoration of teeth elements with plastic materials and extractions. Additionally, adults are entitled to detachable prosthetic facilities and, if necessary, implants in case of a seriously injured jawbone. Also extraordinary dental treatments, which are necessary to help someone regain their dental function, are covered in certain instances.

In which class will I be admitted if I go to the hospital?

All persons are insured in third class, in a room with air conditioning and an insect repellent system at their disposal. Admittance in a higher class is covered only if admittance therein is medically required. If the insured is admitted to a hospital outside of the Dutch Caribbean and the accommodations do not have air conditioning and insect repellent systems, then the insured will be admitted in a class which does meet these requirements.

Does the health insurance office offer supplementary insurance?

No. For supplementary insurance you must go to a private insurance company. (See MCB advertisement in this issue on page 6 for an example.)

Are glasses and lenses covered?

In 2011 insured adults are entitled to coverage of maximum \$170 every two calendar years. Insured persons up to 18 years old are entitled to this each calendar year.

Information brochures are available in three languages with all details regarding the content of the health insurance package. Persons who would like to have information now about the content of the health insurance package can visit the website www.RijksdienstCN.com.

They can also call the RCN information line 08008-10-10-10 between 13.30 – 17.00 PM or you can send an email to info@RijksdienstCN.com and they will send you a digital copy. A copy of this document is also available at the counter at the RCN. ■ *Press release/*

Bonaire Senior Citizen Christmas Dinner

Christmas is a special time of year for the seniors of Bonaire and those who care about them. This year 127 seniors from senior citizens groups in Noord Saliña, Rincon, Terá Corá, Nikiboko, and Antriol were treated to a three-course holiday dinner. Delno Tromp and Nadine Rubin coordinated the event at Sunset Bar and Grill and raised money from the local community to once again give recognition to this great group of people. Many thanks to the contributions from Bonaire Tours, Telbo, Bonaire Gift Shop, Kirk Gosdsen and his staff, and many individual donations. Special thanks to Michael Gaynor, Andreina Marciano, Sebastiano Peluso, Norma Cole, Mary Starke, Nicole Chirino and the kids from Bonaire Outreach Foundation who served as the wait staff and the choir from the Protestant Church who provided the evening's entertainment. Without all of you, this dinner could not be possible. ■ *Nadine Rubin*



Scenes from the Dinner (photos: Delno Tromp's Facebook)

Increased Pension Benefits

As of January 1st a number of matters will change for pensioners. The most important changes are that the amounts of the different payouts will increase. In 2011 the AOV will increase by 17% in total. Besides the amounts, the pension age will also gradually increase: from 60, to 61 in 2015 ending at 65 in 2021. A third change is that starting January 1st the Social Insurance Bank of the Netherlands Antilles (SVB) will no longer make the payments. Rather the *Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland* (RCN) Social Affairs unit will take over these tasks. This means that as of the turn of the year the AOV-pension and/or extra allowance must be applied for at the RCN (Social Affairs unit).

The Dutch Minister of Social Affairs found that the allowances in the Dutch Caribbean were too low and after January 1st the first increase will take place. It is agreed that each year the Minister and the Executive Councils will examine whether there is space for a further increase. The current regular AOV full pension is Naf 800 per month. From January 2011 this will be increased to Naf 937,30 (\$523.63), an increase of 17%. Within this increase is also included an inflation correction (compensation for price increases) which will be adjusted to the allowances annually. Also the partner allowance and general Widow, Widower and Orphan pension (AWW) will increase.

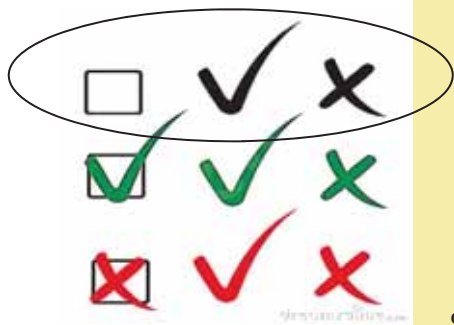


The Christmas bonus that doubles the December payment of what a 60-plusser normally receives in his/her pension remains. Because the research of the Central Bureau of Statistics shows that prices on Saba and St. Eustatius are a bit higher than on Bonaire pensioners on these islands will receive an additional allowance.

Besides the increase in the AOV allowance, the AOV age will also change. AOV funds are generated from the taxes paid by persons who are working. Because life spans are increasing the old age payout schedule would be unsustainable. That is the reason why the AOV retirement age will gradually increase from 60 to 65 years old. Nothing changes for persons born before 1953. In 2021 the AOV age will be 65 years for everyone.

The exact amounts of the allowances available in 2011 can be found on the website of the RCN: www.rijksdienstcn.com. ■ *Press release/G.D*

The Referendum That Wasn't



Some people in Bonaire went to the polls last week to vote in the island's third constitutional Referendum in the last 15 years. What they didn't say was more important than what they did say.

In the first Referendum in 1994 the majority voted – as did all the islands – to stay part of the Netherlands Antilles, but the lackluster support of the Central Government in Curacao caused Bonaire voters to overwhelmingly choose direct ties with the Netherlands in the 2004 second Referendum.

Last week's Referendum was to find out if the people supported the outcome of negotiations that "direct ties" resulted in — a form of integration with The Netherlands. But instead, 65% of the voters stayed away from the polls, invalidating the Referendum and spanking the politicians who spent a

REFERENDUM 2010 (17 DECEMBER 2010 BONAIRE)

{..... OPTIES

STEMBUREAU	SG	US	ONG	NG	BLANCO	JA	NEE	% US/SG	% NEE/SG	%NG/SG
1	1009	310	6	699	5	82	217	31%	22%	69%
2	1561	516	21	1045	4	68	423	33%	27%	67%
3	1197	413	16	784	5	51	341	35%	28%	65%
4	1085	467	12	618	2	35	418	43%	39%	57%
5	835	245	5	590	2	22	216	29%	26%	71%
6	941	327	13	614	2	28	284	35%	30%	65%
7	793	220	5	573	5	21	189	28%	24%	72%
8	938	333	8	605	6	64	255	36%	27%	64%
9	802	369	4	433	12	13	340	46%	42%	54%
10	537	214	9	323	2	7	196	40%	36%	60%
TOTAL	9698	3414	99	6284	45	391	2879			
% van SG		35%	1%	65%	0.5%	4%	29.7%			
	GS	34%	% GS	190%	1%	11%	84.3%			
	GS	3315								

Less than 51% means Referendum Invalid

BLANCO= blank
SG = VOTING
U.S. = VOTES CAST
ONG = INVALID
NS = NOT VOTE
GS = VALID VOTES
STEMBUREAU= POLLING PLACE

SG=STEMGERECHTIGDEN
US=UITGEBRACHTE STEMMEN
ONG= ONGELDIG
NG= NIET GESTEMD
GS= GELDIGE STEMMEN

Table courtesy R. Booi

reported more than NAf 300.000 on the Referendum process.

So then why did this Referendum even happen? Was it maneuvering by independent councilman Anthony Nicolaas?

Nicolaas first broke with his former party, UPB, last year, taking his seat with him and formed a new coalition with the DP-Bonaire, for among other things, to oppose the arrangements in process and organize a Referendum to reject them. However, the

questions and voter criteria chosen by this coalition were so biased that the Antillean Governor annulled the scheduled Referendum at the request of Bonaire's Lt. Governor Thodé.

Nicolaas then flip-flopped and formed a coalition with the same UPB he had left, who now agreed to hold a third Referendum. But on the eve of this Referendum the UPB urged people NOT to vote.

Following the Referendum result Nico-

laas also said there was no rule that said a low turnout automatically meant the result must be disregarded and that the Island Council would have to decide on that. In his opinion, the fact that 84% voted "No" cannot be ignored. His "analysis" was endorsed by "Awor T'E Ora," the organization originating the Referendum for Bonaire who also counted non-voters as No voters.

UPB leader Ramonsito Booi felt his party (Continued on page 15)

Don's Captain

Plants, Trees, Tours and More

"Almost a solid hectare of growing potted plants and trees. Thirty minute tours. Bonaire born and raised, strong plants for beautiful Bonaire gardens. Reasonable prices starting from NAf 5. Landscaping designs, graphically assisted." — *Captain Don*

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Sunday 8 am-1 pm nonstop

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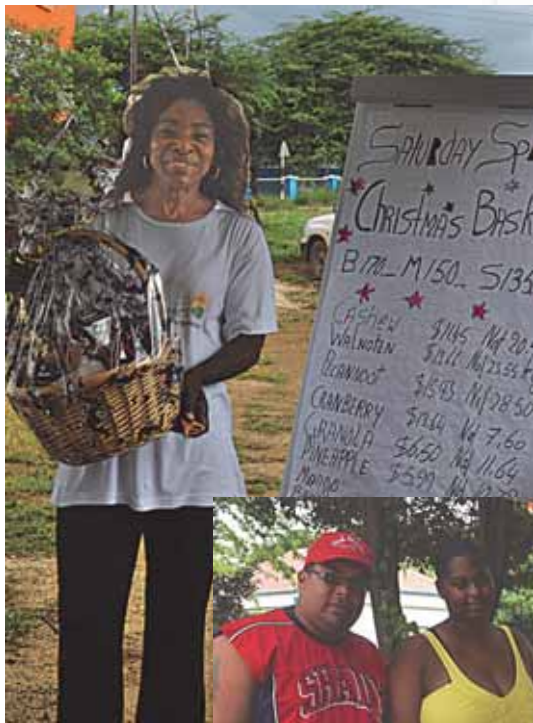
Kaya industria 24, Kralendijk, Bonaire
tel: (+599) 717- 8700 www.warehousebonaire.com

The Farmers' Market on Saturday, December 18, was held despite cluttered skies of rain, sun, drizzle, and was a resounding success. The Market was held on the street behind the Go Green Health Food Store, in front of the Catholic Church in town. "This is just what this island needs," exclaimed several happy buyers. The Market, whose brainchild it was of Tina Woodley of Go Green, attracted growers and purveyors of local products like goat cheese, vegetables, plants, health products, salt scrubs, and plenty of eager customers coming to buy. Organizer Tina Woodley hopes to hold this Farmers' Market every month and encourages even more people with healthy products to join. Go, Tina!

The photos tell the story.
 ■ Laura DeSalvo

In the last issue of *The Reporter* (December 13-31, 2010) in the Kriabon Open House article (page 11), the gentleman in the photo was misnamed as Peter de Boer. His correct name is David Baum. Apologies to David!

First Farmer's Market



↔ Green Label's Agnes and daughter, Lianne, show off plants for Christmas

↑ Farmers' Market organizer, Tina Woodley of Go Green, had beautiful gift baskets filled with healthful delicious treats.



⇒ FKPD sold Salt Scrubs from Bonaire



↓ Suley-Mae from the Natural Way Health Food Store gives us a stunning smile

Also fresh houseplants

Green Label

Green Label Garden Center Wooden sheds, Fencing
 Kaya Industria 28 Behind T.I.S. Picnic tables, and more!
 Tel: 7178310, greenlabel@telbonetan

New arrivals

UNITED COLORS OF BENETTON.

Kaya Grandi 29, Kralendijk - Bonaire N.A. tel: 717 5107
 Store hours Tuesday through Saturdays
 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

The holidays should not only be a time nor a season of festivities, but a state of mind. Therefor InselAir will continue transporting and cherishing the security, peace and goodwill amongst our people in 2011.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all

- The InselAir Family -

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MCB Honors FuHiKuBo and Bòi Antoin

MCB (Maduro Curiel's Bank) Bonaire held its traditional Christmas reception for the Bonaire Press Corps to honor a community-minded organization with a handsome modern sculpture and cash. In past years they've recognized Special Olympics, Jong Bonaire, Bonaire Youth Outreach, the Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds and four others. This year the choice fell on *FuHiKuBo* (Fundashon Históriko Kultural Boneriano- The Bonaire Historical and Cultural Foundation) led by journalist and friend Bòi Antoin, for its tireless work to protect, document and conserve an important part of the history of Bonaire.

In his opening remarks the Bank's Managing Director, Evert Piar, noted that "If we were to name the Year 2010, it ought to be named the Year of Change. Looking back on 2010, aside from the far-reaching constitutional changes and the broad impact this had and will have on our community, we also had the heavy preparations for the upcoming change: the US Dollar will become Bonaire's official currency. Especially for us in the financial and banking sector, this will have a significant impact. We've been preparing intensively since last year, and thankfully today we can say that we are ready for it."

He congratulated the press for helping to keep the people informed of the happenings of the eventful year

Piar expressed his concern for Bonaire's way of life in the face of changes. "When a society experiences a substantial transition, like the one we've been through this year, culture conservation becomes a major concern. Bonaire has maintained for many years

already its vision of sustainable development with conservation of nature and culture. Changes make it even more difficult to keep the indigenous culture of a people intact, or to develop parallel to the transition in a way that the culture's authenticity is preserved."

The bank's choice for its award this year reflected this concern. "It goes without saying that there were more foundations which without a doubt excelled as well in their activities and deserve all sorts of praise and recognition. I do believe, however, that you will all agree with me how this choice reflects the strong desire that lives in our community to preserve our culture and inheritance, especially now that we are going through great changes," said Piar.

Assistant Managing Director Orphaline Saleh expanded on Director Piar's comments. "What do FuHiKuBo and Bòi Antoin with his team do? First of all, they conduct interviews with our elders about how life in Bonaire was years ago, about our history, how people lived and the culture of the time. These interviews are recorded and preserved for the future. FuHiKuBo also manages an extensive archive, in which



Bòi Antoin



MCB officers surround and congratulate Bòi Antoin

aside from the interviews and other taped material of elders talking about the past, many photos, books, documents and historical-cultural artifacts are kept. It is a very large collection of recordings and artifacts which Bòi Antoin has gathered during 25 years. I quote from an article that recently appeared in the morning paper *Extra*: "A large part of the collection consists of the more than 500 episodes of the 'Herensia' TV show, which represents an enormous and important source of Bonairean history and culture."

Aside from the recording and archiving activities, FuHiKuBo also provides courses, gives lectures, and organizes the very popular nature hikes, and so share awareness of our history and culture with the people living on Bonaire.

We should also mention that FuHiKuBo is currently undertaking a project to digitize all its recordings, so as to better preserve these for the future.

MCB concluded the formal part of the evening by congratulating Bòi and his foundation for this achievement, and "wished him health, strength and blessings to keep up the good work, providing guidance especially to our youth and making them conscious of the value and importance of one's own identity, which is reflected through our culture, our customs and our values, and that together we must all strive to maintain and conserve them."

Social activities continued at the Appetite Restaurant, the venue for the event this year. ■ G.D./ Press release

Information about Dollarization

Dear customers of Bo Banko Amigu, in connection with Bonaire's change of official currency to the United States Dollar (USD) on January 1, 2011, we participate the following important information. For general information, please refer to the Information Bulletin that we previously sent to our customers, which is also available at our Branches as well as on our website www.mcbbonaire.com.

Banking Hours

On December 24, 2010, MCB Bonaire offices will be open from 8 AM to 12 PM. In the afternoon all our offices will be closed for the public. On December 31, 2010 all our offices will be closed the whole day.

Important Announcement: In connection with the conversion, all our electronic systems, such as ATMs, card payment terminals (Maestro, credit cards etc) as well as our internet banking systems MCB@Home and MCBDirect will be down, i.e. not operational starting January 1, 2011 from 12 o'clock midnight until 6 o'clock AM.

ATMs

As of December 31, 2010 all MCB Bonaire ATMs will carry US dollars. The ATMs will be able to supply customers with \$ 10, \$ 20, \$ 50 and \$ 100 bills. Only the ATM at the Flamingo Airport will issue \$10, \$ 20, \$ 50, and Euro 20 bills. Customers who need to withdraw Antillean Guilders are kindly advised to do so before December 31, 2010. Please keep in mind that on January 1, 2011 all ATMs will be closed from 12 o'clock midnight until 6 AM.

Checkbooks

Customers who use checkbooks may order their USD checkbook as of now. You can send us your order via fax number 717-8584, via MCB@Home or MCBDirect, via email to checkbook@mcbbonaire.com or drop in at any of our Branches. Your new checkbook will be available approximately one week after the Bank receives your request. For more information about checkbook fees you may visit our website www.mcbbonaire.com or call us. **Very important:** For those accounts that are in NAF until December 31, 2011, the USD checks will not be valid prior to January 1, 2011, therefore we advise you to refrain from writing out these USD checks before then.

At this moment our checkbook producing systems have already been adjusted, reason why unfortunately it is not possible anymore for MCB Bonaire to produce NAF checkbooks. We kindly request our customers, who would have needed additional NAF checks until December 31, to contact our Branches.

We will be issuing additional information in the days to come. Feel free to visit our website www.mcbbonaire.com or our offices, or email us at info@mcbbonaire.com for any questions you may have.

'Bo Banko Amigu' - Extra-ordinary!



MCB
MADURO & CURIEL'S BANK (BONAIRE) N.V.
www.mcbbonaire.com

Tax: OB Ayo - ABB Hello

Bonaire consumers won't see sales tax added to their bills anymore... but that doesn't mean they won't be paying it. Basically, the 8% ABB replaces the 5% OB (accumulating) tax. Merchants pay the 8% on import of the items they will sell or use. Services or items manufactured on Bonaire are also taxed at 8% which must be added to the selling price.



- c. Life insurance
- d. Extended medical insurance
- e. Banking service
- f. Rental of a residence to people living permanently on Bonaire

g. Medical and hospital services
In a combination of products and services, what is taxable needs clearer definition. For example, "parts" seem to become a part of a service when the parts are not the major element. For instance when you get your car fixed and they put in new filters. It appears that the customer gets charged ABB on the filters as well as the service. But this seems strange because it requires the vendor to ask for a refund of the ABB he paid on the filters.

Dispensations -- those who don't have to charge ABB or file forms. To qualify you must:

1. Be a one-man business or partnership or husband/wife operation and established on BES islands
2. Have turnover less than US\$20,000 per calendar year (exclusive of ABB). This is calculated on what would ordinarily be taxable income (subtract the non-taxable income).
3. And you must keep records to prove the above for seven years)

HOWEVER: you do have to request the dispensation and must file forms until you get the approval.

If an individual has more than one company, he/she has to total the turnover from all the companies. The dispensation is to the business person, not the company.

Some clear exemptions to ABB include:

1. Services performed outside the BES islands on non-movable property does not incur ABB. For instance, if a service is done to a house in Curacao, it will not have to charge ABB. (but may be liable for OB on Curacao)
2. Certain transport services: no ABB on sea or airline tickets
3. Restaurants and snacks that provide take-out food only do not charge ABB on the take-away food. But if the restaurant has space for sitting to eat, they have to charge ABB even if some food is taken away.
4. Telecommunications

Some murky exemptions include

1. Culture, art, sport, science, education and relaxation services don't pay ABB.
2. Taxis don't charge ABB if used for public transportation. If the taxi is private transport or a tour, ABB applies.
3. However, if taxis sell their service through a wholesaler (cruise ship, hotel, etc.) they would have to. Hotels don't have to charge it because they have the daily tourist tax.
4. Advisors, engineers, lawyers and accountants are exempt in some situations
4. Long term leasing (moveable or immovable is a consideration)
5. Personnel staffing services

Go to the www.belastingdienst-cn.nl web site for more specifications
<http://www.belastingdienst-cn.nl/nl/veranderingen-belasting-abb>
<http://www.belastingdienst-cn.nl/nl/belastingdienst/downloads> (folders and handbooks in different languages to download).

Remember the RCN Helpline is also available: 08008-101010. ■ G.D./based on notes by Jane Townsend

The new "consumption taxes" are as follows:

Imported items

1. 8% ABB, not import duty. Bread, grain, potatoes, rice, medicines and medical aids are untaxed. See below for other exceptions.

2. If you buy products in Curacao for your own consumption, you can bring back a total of \$175 worth of goods per trip. The Curacao airport duty free shop says they will sell "duty-free items" to Bonaire-bound passengers after 1/1/11.

8% on general merchandise, ABB

- 9% on insurance
- 25% on a passenger car
- 0% on fuel efficient cars
- 8% on a single cab truck (a double cabin pickup is considered a passenger car)

There are three sections to the ABB laws:

- A. For manufacturers who produce and/or sell goods on the BES islands
- B. For people who provide services on the BES islands
- C. For people who import goods to the BES islands

A. Concerning taxes on manufactured goods:

1. If you manufacture goods you pay ABB when you sell the items.
2. For goods you manufacture but sell off-island the tax is 0%
3. Manufacturing is considered making products to sell to an intermediary (wholesaler) who then sells to a customer. For instance, if an artist makes a lot of things to sell to a store that then sells to consumers, then he is a manufacturer. But if the artist just sells products directly to single consumers, he is not a manufacturer and does not charge ABB.

B. Concerning taxes on Services

1. If there are no goods manufactured, and a price is charged, it is considered a service. An assembly business is considered a service
2. ABB is due if the service is performed on any of the BES islands.
3. The service provider charges ABB if the customer is on any of the BES islands. So this means if you use a lawyer in Curacao, the lawyer needs to charge ABB. But the customer on the BES island is responsible for seeing that it gets paid. So if you buy services from outside, you should plan on paying the taxes yourself or make it clear with the vendor whether he is paying ABB or if you have to do it yourself. This means making sure you get estimates with and without ABB.

Exemptions to taxes on services include

- a. school bus services
- b. non-commercial education

This information was reviewed by RCN Management

Picture Yourself With The Reporter In... Athabasca Falls, Alberta, Canada



Tineke and Gerard Mourits took a break from their son's wedding this summer to visit Jasper National Park. The wedding was perfect with a beautiful bride and handsome groom: a very happy couple. And the party was great. They were pleased that they could break away for a few days and went to the Rocky Mountains. That is where this

picture with *The Reporter* was taken, at the Athabasca Falls. They wished they could stay a little longer at the mountains, because of its beautiful nature, real fantastic! They're planning to go back someday and hire a camper for a few weeks. Recommended!

Stichting Project Fundraiser Dinner



Serving and kitchen staff for the dinner

Bonaire's award-winning youth help foundation, the Stichting Project, pulled out all the stops for their fund raising dinner on Tuesday night, December 14, at "Les Restaurant De Bonairiaan."

The turnout was disappointing as the event competed with several other parties at the same time. But the four-course meal was no disappointment. The profits of this evening will benefit the activities of the Stichting Project. The (non alcoholic) Piña Coladas were especially delicious.

The youngsters participating in the Project volunteered themselves that evening. It was interesting to observe how the efficiency and level of service improved as the meal progressed. Obvi-



Awesome dessert

ously the youngsters were gaining skill and confidence. Those interested in visiting at breakfast or lunch can call 717-6921 / 786-6816 or E-mail: stichtingproject@flamingotv.net www.stichtingproject.com. ■ G.D.

**Bonaire Reporter Classifieds— Are still free
Got something to buy or sell?**

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Bonaire Images

Elegant **greeting cards** and beautiful **boxed note cards** are now available at Chat -N-Browse next to Lover's Ice Cream in the Sand Dollar Mall. Photography by Shelly Craig www.bonaireimages.com



LUNCH TO GO

Starting from NAf6,50 per meal. Call **CHINA NOBO 717-8981**.

Web site: www.chinanobobonaire.com



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color: beige; brand:

Cinderella; Status- not brand-new.
Price:NAf.40 phone; **700-8208**

LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS,
Rentals, Property

House for Rent Available February 1, 2010... Spacious Seaside Villa in Hato 3 BR/2 BA/Open floor plan with LR, DR and Kitchen. All Bedrooms with airco. Large lot with garden and private pier, Cable TV, furniture, garden maintenance and weekly cleaning service included in rent- 6 month rental **NO SMOKING/NO PETS**
\$2795/month excluding cost of elec, water, telephone and internet.
717.8876 or 786.1016

Furnished house for rent in quiet, centrally located area, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, front and back porch, tel: **717-8603**

FOR RENT Office space / shops 60 m² 1 Bedroom / 1 Bathroom / Kitchen Apartment
Unfurnished / Long term rentals Excl. Utilities \$ 500,- NAF 895,- HATO Blvd Gob.N.Debrot # 92 Cell **785 0918**

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

Studio apt for rent furnished, kitchenette, airco, pagabon, mitv and internet, excl water, propane ang 750,00 a month/ ang 700,00 deposit call **795-3456**

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MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale: Hutch 185cm h by 125cm w by 65cm d \$ 700; **Coffee table** 110 cm by 110cm by 38 h cm \$ 450; **Side table** 41 cm by 110cm by 79 h cm \$100

Two Twin beds \$250 each; **Abstract paintings** Call 786-2692

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

Antiques and Collectibles
Call 795-9760

Got a gift you don't need?
Sell it here free next week

The Animal Welfare Committee (Stichting DierenBescherming) needs sponsors to help them shelter confiscated animals.

It is working closely with the *Dieren Asiel* (Bonaire Animal Shelter) but it doesn't limit its rescue work to only dogs and cats.

The Bonaire Animal Shelter is often alerted by concerned neighbors, passers by or tourists when they witness animal abuse, so they offer shelter to the dogs and cats who need this.

But unfortunately there are horses, parrots, monkeys that are mistreated as well, and those need a separate and other well-equipped place to be nurtured back to health. The *DierenBescherming* has placed one horse in the care of a volunteer horse lover and this horse has had, for the past

two years, a healthy and peaceful life.

But there are confiscated monkeys and parrots as well who desperately need a better life. Another animal lover has offered care and a perfect place to build adequate housing for them.

But the foundation needs money for the materials and the medical and food expenses. If you can help the M&C account number is .113067-06 (F.A.W.B.). You may establish a standing order, and that would be greatly appreciated. For more information call 717-7021. ■ *Lous Rood*



**Writers/Reporters
Wanted**

(paid by the word)

Email: george@bonairenews.com

The island's Bridge Club is looking for new members, all levels.

Every Wednesday from 7.30 till 11 p.m. Location: Kaya Amsterdam (Sporthal). Costs: NAf 2,50 p.p.p. evening. Call Renata 796-5591.



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
Fri 31		02:22 / - 0.08 ft	09:30 / 1.22 ft	18:18 / - 0.15 ft	22:14 / 0.11 ft	6:56	18:21
Sat 01		03:01 / - 0.04 ft	10:17 / 1.20 ft	19:15 / - 0.17 ft	23:38 / 0.07 ft	06:56 AST	18:22 AST
Sun 02		03:30 / 0.01 ft	11:05 / 1.17 ft	20:14 / - 0.20 ft		06:56 AST	18:22 AST
Mon 03	01:21 / 0.08 ft	03:51 / 0.07 ft	11:53 / 1.11 ft	21:09 / - 0.21 ft		06:57 AST	18:23 AST
Tue 04	12:40 / 1.03 ft	21:57 / - 0.20 ft	New Moon			06:57 AST	18:23 AST
Wed 05	13:27 / 0.94 ft	22:38 / - 0.18 ft				06:58 AST	18:24 AST
Thu 06	14:13 / 0.83 ft	23:11 / - 0.16 ft				06:58 AST	18:24 AST
Fri 07	06:05 / 0.37 ft	08:46 / 0.36 ft	14:58 / 0.73 ft	23:37 / - 0.13 ft		06:58 AST	18:25 AST
Sat 08	06:13 / 0.45 ft	10:44 / 0.37 ft	15:43 / 0.62 ft	23:59 / - 0.10 ft		06:58 AST	18:26 AST
Sun 09	06:29 / 0.54 ft	12:17 / 0.34 ft	16:28 / 0.52 ft			06:59 AST	18:26 AST
Mon 10		00:17 / - 0.07 ft	06:48 / 0.62 ft	13:33 / 0.28 ft	17:15 / 0.42 ft	06:59 AST	18:27 AST
Tue 11		00:33 / - 0.05 ft	07:09 / 0.71 ft	14:36 / 0.21 ft	18:03 / 0.33 ft	06:59 AST	18:27 AST
Wed 12	First Quarter	00:49 / - 0.03 ft	07:33 / 0.79 ft	15:32 / 0.13 ft	18:51 / 0.25 ft	06:59 AST	18:28 AST
Thu 13		01:04 / - 0.03 ft	08:00 / 0.87 ft	16:26 / 0.06 ft	19:40 / 0.17 ft	07:00 AST	18:28 AST
Fri 14		01:21 / - 0.03 ft	08:31 / 0.95 ft	17:17 / 0.00 ft	20:29 / 0.11 ft	07:00 AST	18:29 AST

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SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

AIRLINES

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

Insel Air- The Dutch Caribbean's own international airline. Efficiently run, convenient schedules, low fares and non-stop to Miami.



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

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

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

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.

CARS AND BIKES

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

CONSTRUCTION

Total Home Sustainable Building Products stocks a large collection of European quality hardware. Call 701-7011, above Caribbean Homes Realty

DENTURE REPAIR

All Denture Lab—for the best denture care by an experienced professional. Repairs while you wait. Next to Botika Korona on Kaya J. G. Hernandez.

DINING

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 & hand-made 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.

PHOTO FINISHING

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

PHOTOGRAPHER

Bonaire's creative video and still photographer for the wedding or other important events in your life. **ScubaVision**, Kaya Grandi 6, see website scubavision.info or YouTube

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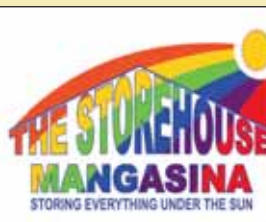


Harbourtown Real Estate has extensive listing of Bonaire properties of all kinds. They can help sell your Bonaire home too. Visit their new office.

RETAIL

Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

STORAGE



The Storehouse (Mangasina) in Papiamentu offers Secure Storage For Vehicles, Household Items, Diving And Sporting Gear, Business Files or Inventory. Across from the northern hotel row.

SECURITY

Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.



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Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria—Biggest air conditioned market with the, largest selection and lowest prices on the island.

(ISLAND) TOURS

Christie Dovale will personally take you on a fascinating tour of the island. Contact her via her website: IslandToursBonaire.com Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456. You will remember it always.

WEB & INTERNET SERVICES

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WINES

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Holiday Concert Sell-Out



Bonaire's Second Annual December Holiday Concert was held for a standing-room-only audience at Plaza Resort Bonaire's Cacique Hall on Saturday, December 18. Predominately local musicians and groups filled the hall with music of the season arranged, played and sung with an Antillean flare.

Local 8-year old, **Grep Linkels**, performed a nineteenth century piano composition for four hands with his teacher, **Hans Odin Faassen**. This recital was followed by piano and keyboard improvisations by Faassen and his son, **Felix Faassen**. Trading off between the grand piano and electronic keyboard, the two Faassens took off in their musical explorations based on familiar works from J.S. Bach, Gounod and Gershwin.

Well known local group, **Gebby I Su Streanan** performed *White Christmas* in an island style like no other, followed by Valzes in Antillean style. The group's leader, **Gabriel (Gebby) Seleh** on piano was joined by **Herbert (Ibi) de Palm** on guitar and bass, **Roberto (Papachi) Salsbach** on kwarts dna bass, **Norbert (Norbis) Goyla** on wiri, rasp and maraca; and **Genaro Anthony** on percussion instruments. **Tutti Frutti**, the "pearl of Rincon," brought their choir and band to perform a medley of island songs, including special Christmas songs from the group's new CD, "Pasku Krioyo, composed by **Veronica Mercera**. "Everyone can understand good Papiamentu," Mercera said, and the crowd fervently agreed.

An ensemble from Bonaire's renowned **Silver Bullet Steel Band** then played a medley of traditional Christmas songs on the pans to the delight of all.

The Classical Music Board Bonaire will present its **next event on Saturday, January 29, 2011**. The Concert will feature three well-known Antillean pianists, Livio Hermans, Johnny Kleinmoedig and Willem Stadius Muller, performing Chopin and classical Antillean music, with a special explanation by writer Jan Brokken. ■

Bob Gilmour

Pre-Christmas Eclipse



There were not many pre-dawn times like Tuesday, December 21, 2010. Take it from people who know: astronomers. There was maybe one time like this Tuesday in the past 2,000 years. The Total Eclipse of the Moon, which delighted sky watchers in the pre-dawn hours, was followed later in the day by the arrival of the Winter Solstice.

The last time the two celestial events occurred within the same calendar day was long before any of our lifetimes. The year, according to Geoff Chester, public affairs officer at the US Naval Observatory, was 1638. Although the solstice does not always occur on the same date each year, the date in 1638 was the same as Tuesday's - December 21.

Few alive today are likely to see a recurrence. The next time the Winter Solstice and a Total Lunar Eclipse will occur on the same calendar day will be December 21, 2094.

The day of the solstice is essentially the shortest of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. Many people consider it to be the official start of the winter season. ■

Naval Observatory/ G.D.

Special Security Services (SSS) Receives 15-year Award



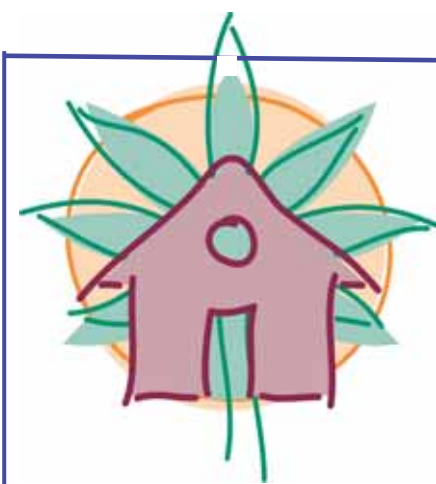
SSS's Marisol and Benito Dirksz with their award

Recently during one of the biggest security conventions in the world in the US, Special Security Services had the honor of receiving the 15th Year Award as the dealer of First Alert Professional Security Systems in Bonaire. The company is an important division of Honeywell Security which is the biggest company in the world for the manufacture and distribution of sophisticated electronic systems like recording cameras, alarms for intrusion and fire for residential and commercial buildings. SSS is unique in security in Bonaire with a central monitoring system operating 24 hours a day certified by MicroKey, and their technicians are certified by Honeywell Security. ■ *Press release*

Referendum (Continued from page 9)

did nothing wrong by giving Nicolaas the Referendum he wanted and then asking people not to vote. He said the result proved the majority agreed this was not the time to judge the new status his party had negotiated and it was better to wait for the evaluation after five years that had been agreed on with The Hague. DP-leader Robby Beukenboom said the result proved people were not content and not even the party that negotiated the current status had the guts to stand up for it in the Referendum.

The Referendum result and expense will be just one of the elements to figure in the Island Government /Special Municipality elections set for March 2011. ■



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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	Arrive	De-part	PAX Cap	Line
Fri	Dec-31	<i>Sea Princess</i>	0800	1800	2016	Princess
Sat	Jan 1 2011	<i>Emerald Princess</i>	0700	1400	3100	Princess
Mon	Jan-03	<i>Aida Vita</i>	0800	1600	1260	Aida
Thu	Jan-06	<i>Caribbean Princess</i>	1100	2000	3100	Princess
Fri	Jan-07	<i>Grandeur of the Seas</i>	0700	1600	2446	Celebrity
		<i>Oceana</i>	0800	1800	1950	P & O
Mon	Jan-10	<i>Westerdam</i>	0800	2400	1918	HAL
Thu	Jan-13	<i>Sea Princess</i>	0800	1800	2016	Princess
Fri	Jan-14	<i>Friday market</i>	0900	1400		
Mon	Jan-17	<i>Aida Vita</i>	0800	1600	1260	Aida
Sun-Tues	Thru Spring 2011	<i>Freewinds</i>	0630	2200	150	Scientology

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Friday, December 31—San Silvestre Run sponsored by CVKB. 1, 3, 5 km run. Sign up at Stadium in Playa, 4 pm. Races start at 5 pm at the Stadium, ending at tienda Ons Hoekje in Niki-boko Nord. Prizes, certification of participation, soup and drinks for runners. Sponsors: Ons Hoekje, Marines Import. Information 701-8629, 796-8629

December 31—Fireworks all over the island at midnight (and before and after)

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

Saturday, January 1—Maskarada. Mysterious, silent masked people perform skits, starting at the Governor's home early in the morning. Later in the day they'll appear at the hospital, old folks home, etc.

Saturday, January 8 -Wine tasting at Antillean Wine Company (AWC). A selected group of wines and small snacks served for \$10 per person, at their warehouse on Kaya Industrial #23 down the street from Warehouse Bonaire. More information at 560-7539.

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 Koecks 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*.

Thursdays

Bonaire Chess & Draughts (checkers) players get together on from 19.00 till 21.00 at the SGB-school: Kaya Frater Odulfinuz z/n.

Fridays

- **Young Bonaire Chess & Draughts** players get together from 17.00 till 19.00 at the SGB-school. Kids can start at age six. Tourists are welcome. Contact Serapio Pop, at 701-9660
- **Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7-10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Sunday- Creature Feature— John and Suzie Wall of Buddy's Digital photo center present a multimedia slide presentation about Buddy's House Reef - pool bar Buddy Dive, 6:30-7 pm, 717-5080

Monday -- Touch the Sea -- Dee Scarr, honored as a member of the Women Divers Hall of Fame conducts Bonaire's Touch the Sea programs of personalized dive guiding. She presents a unique perspective on critters and corals, plus an updated Bonaire lionfish report, every Monday she's on-island at 8:30 pm in the Aquarius Conference Center at Captain Don's Habitat, Call 717-8290.

Wednesday - Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday in the conference room at Captain Don's Habitat (717-8290)

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018
Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868
Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on December 25th. and January 1st. Call 788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681

CLUBS and MEETINGS

AA meetings - every Wednesday at 7pm. Phone: 786-4651 or 786-7971
Al-Anon meetings - every Monday evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272
Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:15 pm— All levels, 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.

ART EXHIBITS

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

Kaminda di Arte (Art Trail) January 16 and every third Sunday of the month until June 2011, 11 am to 5 pm. 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

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 **Some Church Services were omitted for lack of space. They will reappear in the next edition. ..**

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

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) ties, customs and immigration regarding the opening and security of the airport, Insel Air decided to once again fly daily from Miami and St. Maarten according to its normal schedule. Insel Air was the also first outside airline to resume regular flights to Haiti after the earthquake last January.

► **THE HAGUE**--The Lower House of the Dutch Parliament has backed a motion from the liberal democrat D66 party calling on government to conduct an investigation into the viability of Radio Netherlands Worldwide (RNW). **RNW maintains a large short-wave transmitter site in the Colombia area of Bonaire.**

The motion notes that the role of RNW, funded by the Dutch government, has been partially overtaken by technological developments such as the Internet. RNW's current tasks are informing Dutch nationals abroad, providing independent information in countries with limited press freedom," editor-in-chief Rik Rensen said.



► **Dos and Bettie Winkel** have done it again! The name of their newest book is **Bonaire From The Air** and the name says it all. This perfect souvenir and gift takes you on a tour around the island from the sky, starting at Flamingo Airport with a "low pass" over the Donkey Sanctuary and a "fly by" along the resorts to Kralendijk, Hato and Sabadeco. From there we travel clockwise up the west coast and around the whole island. You will see the beauty of Bonaire from a totally different perspective. What seems to be a barren and pretty colorless island on land turns out to be all shades of brown and green from the air, complemented by a pastel palette of pink and lilac salt pans to the south and surrounded by the most exquisite blue and turquoise sea. Check the pages to see if your house is in it!

The distributor, **Palm Trading Bonaire**, and Dos and Bettie would like to thank all the loyal sponsors and wish everybody a happy new year!

**Show this Bonaire Reporter at your

bookstore while you purchase the book and you can collect a unique present from *Dos Winkel* (as long as available).

► **Bonaire's volunteerism initiative, BON DOET, is off to a fast start.** STINAPA has signed up for the big March 18-19 coastal cleanup that will need around 100 volunteers. BON DOET, working with the NGO Platform in cooperation with the Dutch Oranje Fonds, aims to help organize projects that will benefit the community. Most projects are expected to involve about four hours and a handful of people. Families, school classes, work groups can all organize with the help of BON DOET for community actions. There are over a hundred NGOs registered on Bonaire and BON DOET would like as many of them as possible as well as individuals to take part. Contact the NGO Plataforma at 717 2366 or via e-mail ngoplatformbonaire@gmail.com. NGO Plataforma Boneiru will help groups complete the BON DOET application to help get funding up to \$650 to buy needed material for their project. Check out the BON DOET website for more info and ideas: www.nldoet.nl/bonaire.

► **To celebrate the joyous Christmas season Digicel treated several charitable foundations to a delicious Christmas ham to make this season even more festive.** Digicel managers, together with their fabulous Santa Girl, visited *Kas di Kuido, Cocari, FKPD, Krusada* and *Fundashon Rosa di Sharon*, bringing them this nice treat to celebrate Christmas.

► **Eye and Ear Care Foundation (Fundashon Kuido pa Bista i Oido) Says Thank You!**



Thank you from the members of the Eye and Ear Care Foundation to the community of Bonaire for their generosity during the last year. Approximately Naf 3.000 was

donated to enable the foundation to continue their projects with the vision and hearing impaired on the island. "Thank you from the bottom of our hearts," say the members of the foundation, "and we hope that in the future we will continue to have the cooperation of the community."

► There is a possibility that a **hotel developer intends to purchase a large tract of Plantation Bolivia for a resort complex that would include a golf course.** Most of Bolivia was recently zoned "nature land" since it provides Bonaire's last remain-

ing natural bridge for animals and vegetation between the hills of Washington Park and the fertile lands of Washikemba. Besides the protection to the environment required for any development in Bolivia, has the developer ever tried to play golf in a stiff trade wind that blows over Bolivia?

► **The Dutch sailing teen, Laura Dekker, who aims to be the youngest person to circumnavigate the world, arrived safely in St. Maarten** after a quick trans-Atlantic passage. It's been reported that while she has sufficient funds to complete the journey, there is little for contingencies. Her father Dick blames the authorities for the cash shortage. Involvement of child welfare, he claims, scared off potential sponsors. And a lot of money went to legal expenses and there is a lack of buyers of the video footage. To make up for the shortfall, people visiting <http://www.lauradekker.nl/English/Home.html> are asked to make a donation.

► Besides being available through archives at **The Bonaire Reporter website, www.bonairereporter.com, back issues of The Reporter are kept on line by the University of Florida at <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00094093/00247/allvolumes>.** ■ G./L. D.

► **The Reporter** wants to make clear that the comments regarding the **Harbourtown Realty donation to Father Richards Church of the Baranka** in the last edition of *The Reporter* were solely those of *The Reporter*. The story expressed *The Reporter's* admiration for Harbourtown's concern for the island's poor people and how they chose to help them directly. Harbourtown was in no way responsible for the remarks.

Sudoku Solution

Puzzle on page 7

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

Give Away (Continued from page 3) location to private housing. The plans of Fundashon Playa Pùblico would create opportunities for a number of local Bonaire businesses as well as a visitor's educational center and headquarters for the STINAPA parks service. The site should also capture the other unique qualities of Bonaire: natural beauty, tranquility, culture, unspoiled, happy interaction between locals and visitors. If done right, this could become the crown jewel of the Caribbean.

"Bonaire needs to reestablish its environmental heritage and credentials," said Beukenboom. **"While Bonaire was the first in many preservation areas, we are not thought of as the leader for this any longer. We need a new initiative in this area and the park at Sunset could be it."**

"We need a showplace for what Bonaire represents in the world of environmentally friendly tourism. A mixed-use development plan for the site should include a STINAPA Visitors Center that gives Bonaire credit for its vision and early efforts that have been copied around the world. It could have a museum or two including, perhaps, Captain Don's idea of an Accolade to honor the pioneers of diving here. Most of all, it needs to look and feel Bonairean and not just another tropical development."

We also need something that will appeal to the Bonaire visitor. Since most are outdoor people (diving, windsurfing, kite surfing, snorkeling, sailing, etc) this location can become a major tourist attraction for our type of tourist. It will also help the divers and windsurfers who want to come to Bonaire but their families don't because there is nothing for the family to do. This would provide a wonderful site where families of visitors and locals can enjoy themselves.

In the vision of Fundashon Playa Pùblico, the Visitor Center should include an interactive environmental learning center that could possibly involve the Turtle Conservation group and other organizations. Fundashon Playa Pùblico also envisions an amphitheater where the island could host major events and entertainment activities.

It is possible that the location could also have a small to medium sized hotel with conference/meeting rooms so that Bonaire could lure small groups and meetings for those who are interested in a unique experience and not just nightlife. ■ *Fundashon Playa Pùblico release*

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Reef Windows
Opening Bonaire's Dive Sites

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

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.

BonQuiz Answer

Bon Quiz (from page 7)

Q) What year were these slave huts built?

1850

Pet of the Week

“Alexia,” this alert looking black and tan beauty, is known at the Bonaire Animal Shelter as “Little Mother.” She was brought into the Shelter with four totally different looking puppies, father(s) unknown. Alexia, a very mellow and relaxed dog, was considered to be the perfect mom to these pups. All the puppies have been adopted and Alexia has been sterilized so can now live her own life. She’s very intelligent and serene at the same time. What a nice kind of dog to have around. When it’s necessary she barks, so she would be a good guard dog, protecting those she loves. Alexia is about



one and a half years old. You may see her at the Shelter on the Lagoon Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

Notice: It’s fireworks time again on Bonaire. It may be fun for people but it’s hell for animals, not just cats and dogs but for donkeys, goats, sheep and birds too. There are things you can do for your own pets. (See the article on Pet Calm below.)

And bring your pets inside the house to a quiet room. You might give them something to chew on as that can relieve some of the stress. If you can be around to calm them down it would be even better.

Because of the fireworks, frightened dogs and cats may run away and become disoriented. **The Shelter every year acts as “headquarters” for lost animals. If you find one please bring it to the Shelter. If you’ve lost one, call the Shelter at 717-4989. It may have been turned in by a good Samaritan.**

Have a happy, healthy and prosperous new year to all the pet owners and their faithful companions!

See you next year! ■ Laura DeSalvo

Bubbles From the Biologist

When you are underwater, have you ever noticed two small eyes poking out from a hole in the rock? They belong to a cute little fish called a tube blenny! Don’t be fooled though. While tube blennies are cute, they are miniature gladiators. They live in abandoned worm holes inside corals and rocks. They pop their tiny heads out to grab specs of plankton. The highest hole on the coral or rock has the most plentiful amounts of plankton drifting by, but how do the blennies decide who gets this hole? They fight for it! A blenny in a lower, less desirable hole will move upwards to a higher hole, and if it is occupied, it will challenge the occupant by raising its sail-like fin on its back and attack! It will try to grab the head of the hole-owner and throw it out of its hole. The two blennies sometimes spin wildly, fighting and biting each other trying to win the battle. This may continue for several minutes until a victor is decided. The challenger seldom wins. Once the fight is over, the loser generally returns to a lower hole in defeat.

This fighting is a vital part of the blenny’s daily life. Usually the smallest, youngest tube blennies are in the smallest holes near the bottom of the coral or rock. As a blenny ages and grows larger, it tends to move toward the highest point, challenging or moving into vacated holes until it reaches the top where food is more bountiful. Don’t confuse these little guys with gobies though.



Photo: Jim Lyle's Scuba Webpage

Blennies can be easily distinguished (if you have a magnifying glass) from gobies by small fleshy appendages called cirri on their heads and snouts. ■

Andrew Brendle

“I’m a senior at the University of Colorado at Boulder. I’m here this semester studying Marine biology with CIEE. I’m new to SCUBA diving and still getting some of the basics down, but loving every minute of it. My major is Integrative Physiology, so I’m learning all about the processes of the human body. As you can see, my major doesn’t have much to do with marine biology, but I decided to study here and learn about another area of biology besides the human body.”



Pet Calm

THE PET PROJECT 2010
Benefits Animal Shelter and Your Pet

Our New Year’s celebration will be festive when we ring in the year with fireworks. Our pets react with confusion due to the unusual noise. The New Year period sees the loss of pets that run away from these loud noises. Fortunately, help is available in an inexpensive, non-toxic form. It has helped many people effectively for a variety stresses. It is named “Rescue Remedy.”

Rescue Remedy is a natural medicine made from flowers. It was invented in England by a physician named Dr. Edward Bach, who intended to relieve psychological suffering of people. That was in 1935. Since those years, people have used Bach remedies and shared it with pets.

This year Rescue Remedy will be available for pet owners to help their animal companions through the New Year 2011, fireworks thanks to The Pet Project.

Follow the simple instructions on the label. The cost is NAf 3, which benefits



the Animal Shelter.

You may pick up Rescue Remedy at the Animal Shelter on Kaminda Lagoon, Bistro de Paris, Chat ‘n Browse, DA Store, and many groceries.

Visit us in front of Warehouse Grocery on December 31! Pick up a remedy and ask questions concerning your pet.

If you have more questions about Rescue Remedy, email fhummingbird@yahoo.com. ■ Florence Ditlow is a Registered Nurse & an herbalist certified in the use of Bach Remedies through the Bach Center.

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Third Time is The Charm For Jupiter and Uranus

Jupiter and Uranus have been hanging out together in the sky for the past six months and they had super close encounters in June and September and will have one more Tuesday, January 4. The reason this is a big deal is that Jupiter is easy to find in the sky while Uranus is not. But when they're close together,

usually every 13 to 14 years, you have an unusual opportunity to use Jupiter to help you find the dim 7th planet, Uranus.

On Monday, January 3rd, about an hour after sunset face southwest and if you look about half way up from the horizon you'll see a very bright light in the evening sky. It's Jupiter the king of the planets and if you have a pair of binoculars use them to take a look at Jupiter and its family of moons. At first you'll probably be able to see only Jupiter, but give it a few minutes and you should be able to see some very tiny points of light on either side of Jupiter. Jupiter will be about 2,000 times brighter than these points of light, which are four of the many moons of Jupiter. They were first seen by Galileo in 1610 with his small homemade telescope.

Now on Monday night there will be something extra. The dim blue-green planet Uranus will be visible up to the right of Jupiter. How far? It'll be about the width of our Earth's Moon away. You can see Uranus with the naked eye in a dark sky, but not many people have actually done it. Those four moons of Jupiter are about the same brightness as Uranus so using binoculars will make it much easier. Take your time and you'll find Uranus near Jupiter if you have patience and clear skies. Next week is special because Jupiter and Uranus will be very close for several days and the Moon won't interfere until later in the week.

Now Jupiter and Uranus are both much farther from the Sun than our Earth and orbit very slowly in comparison to the Earth. Jupiter takes about 12 Earth years for one circuit of the sun while Uranus



takes 84 Earth years to do the same. Jupiter will catch up with Uranus every 13 to 14 years and then they'll be in conjunction. Jupiter and Uranus were in conjunction on June 8th, September 22, and then on January 4th we'll see the last close-up of this triple conjunction.

A triple conjunction means that Jupiter appears to pass Uranus, then appears to go on a path that causes it to loop backwards past Uranus for a second time. That backward motion (called "retrograde motion") soon comes to an end and Jupiter resumes its normal eastward path, passing Uranus a third and final time. The last triple conjunction was in 1983 and the next will be in 2037-38. They don't happen very often. And this was a real puzzle for our ancestors to explain.

The reason this happens is that it only looks like they are slowing down and then reversing as the Earth passes them on the inside track, they don't really do it. If you pass a car on the expressway is it really going backwards or does it only look like its backing up? This year Jupiter and Uranus were both at opposition on September 21st and because of their both being at opposition at nearly the same time there were three conjunctions of Uranus and Jupiter this time around. They were in conjunction on June 8th, September 22 and the last one will be, you guessed it, next week on Tuesday January 4th. So get out your binoculars or small telescope next week and take a look at the 7th planet Uranus and the 5th planet Jupiter with its four moons, **Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto.**

Dean Regas, Cincinnati Observatory



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
Overall 2011 Horoscope

Aries (March 20 to April 18): For all Aries born people, this year will be moderately good. You will be busy with your working life and will also enjoy your personal life. You may fall in love this year and during the first half of the year, but you have to give efforts to make it a successful one. If want to start your business this year, you should look after the documents properly. Overall, this year will be a good year for all of you.

Taurus (April 19 to May 19): Those who are born between April 19 and May 19, the year 2011 will be pretty good for their love life. If you are planning to get married will bring some good news for you. You will have a prosperous professional life and there are also some chances of promotion. However, look after your health, since there are some chances of poor health conditions this year.

Gemini (May 20 to June 20): If you are born between May 20 and June 20, you will have a good year in 2011. From your personal life to professional life, even though you may experience some ups and downs, you will enjoy a happy life. Some strong decisions will be needed to make. If you are planning for wedding, this year may be the ideal time for you to tie the knot.

Cancer (June 21 to July 21): If you are born between June 21 and July 21, you are a Cancerian. The year will be overall great for you. You may shift your job during the first half of the year. The excitement and flame in your love life will be there in this year. This year, you may have to spend some valuable money on the health issues. If there is any elderly person in your family, you may have to face some health related issues.

Leo (July 22 to August 21): Those, who are born between July 22 and August 21, are Leos. You are imaginative and creative. If you have any new idea or concept, you must share this with your seniors, since your uplift will be depending upon this. You are emotional, but do not show it off in front of others, as they can take advantage of this. Your love life will be sound and quite healthy for the year of .

Virgo (August 22 to September 21): Those, who celebrate their birthdays from August 22 to September 21, are Virgos. If you are a Virgo, then you will enjoy a comfortable year . Be it your love life, finance, career, family life, or relationships, you will have peace in mind. Your family and friends will be extremely helpful to you. You may have to give some efforts for some of your relationships, but that will not be difficult for you to manage.

Libra (September 22 to October 22): Those, who have their birthdays between September 22 to October 22, are Libras. Libras are the most balanced personalities of all zodiac signs. They know what to say, what to verdict, and what to do at the right time. The family life and professional life will be balanced superbly. Moreover, you may get some added bonus this year, according to your performance. You will also enjoy a good health this year.

Scorpio (October 23 to November 20): If you are born between October 23 and November 20, you are a Scorpio. You are confident and adorable. There will be no dearth of love in your personal life. Even though, you may have to face some issues with the elderly member of your family, but you will enjoy a decently good year in . Your partner will be understanding and supportive to you. You may also get a hike for your brilliant performance.

Sagittarius (November 21 to December 20): If you have your birthday between November 21 and December 20, it will be a great year for you. You are ambitious and this year will bring some amazing opportunities to fulfill your professional ambitions. If you are in a relationship, and want to tie the knot, 2011 is a good year for it. Overall, this year will be financially great for you.

Capricorn (December 21 to January 19): If you are born between December 21 and January 19, you are Capricornian. Capricornians are creative. If you are in a creative field, you will definitely reach to the pinnacle. You may go for a business trip during the first half of the year. Your family members are very understanding. A new friend may be coming to your life this year and you will share a unique bond with him/her.

Aquarius (January 20 to February 18): Aquarians celebrate their birthday from January 20 to February 18. If you are Aquarian, you must be very creative and ambitious. Your professional life will be in focus during the second half of the year, while the first half will be excellent for your personal life. You may also tie the knot during the first few months of the year. There is a chance of job shift after August.

Pisces (February 19 to March 19): Those, who have their birthday between February 19 and March 19, are Pisceans. You will have a wonderful year. Your family and friends will be closer to you and you will also enjoy a contented professional life. You may make some new friends this year, but always judge them by your instinct

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Top row: Sam Visser, Rob Laurant, Stephan Evertz, Tim Geerdink Below: Zwanet Kooij, EllaRosa Adelina, Sanela Mahmutefendić, Monique Bergsma, Elise Arbman and Bob Bartikoski



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