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BONAIRE January 14-28, 2011 Year 18, Issue 2

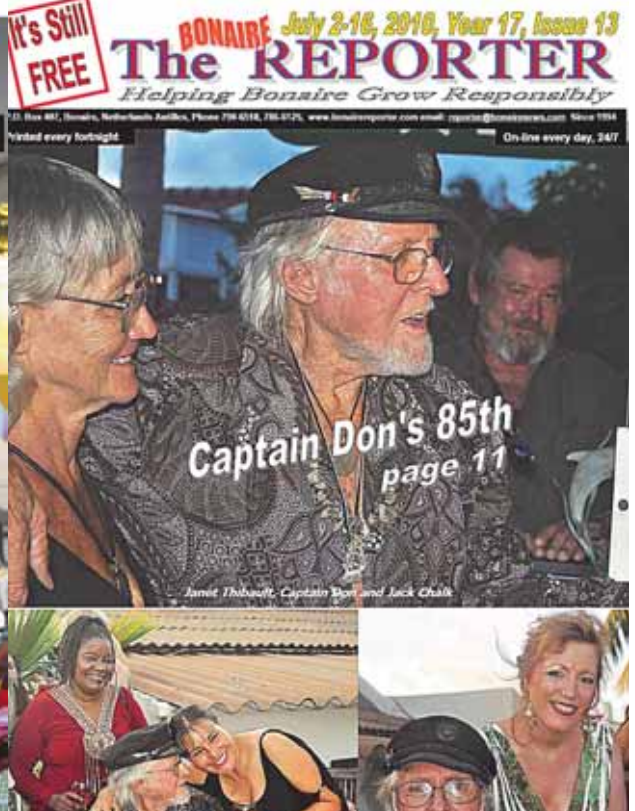
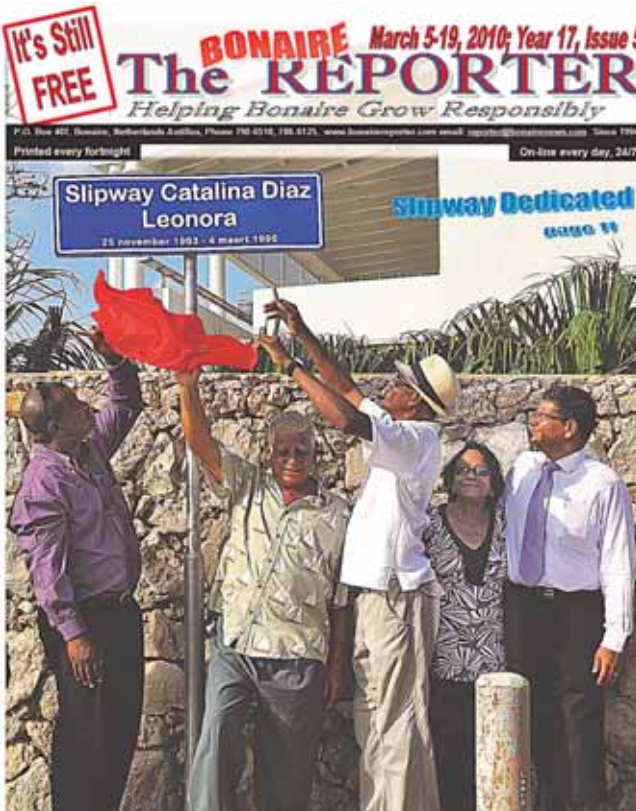
The REPORTER

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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2010 Review
see back page



Starting next month, the \$35 airport departure tax on flights from Bonaire to Aruba and vice versa will drop to \$20, says Commissioner of Economic Affairs Elvis Tjin Asjoe (UPB). Tjin Asjoe and Commissioner Anthony Nicolaas were recently on Aruba where they reached an agreement with Aruban Tourism Minister Otmar Oduber. Tjin Asjoe said he will also do his best to keep the departure tax for Curaçao between \$9 and \$10.

►GE Power, a company that manages and operates electric power plants, has been making inquiries about the electrical power situation on Bonaire. All electrical power on Bonaire is produced by the new Ecopower plant near BOPEC and its associated wind farm at Morotin. The parent company of Ecopower failed in the 2008 economic downturn and the Ecopower plant is up for sale.



►Last Wednesday and Thursday the police set up roadblocks at several locations to check for motor vehicle violations. According to a police press release they fined 47 drivers and confiscated nine cars and a scooter. Among the infractions were driving without a license, insurance and non-payment of the road tax. The police said they would continue the checks.

►During the night of December 28-29 a Special Security Service guard who was stationed at a container of fireworks on Kaya Nikiboko Suid discovered thieves who had cut their way through the fence to where the container was. The guard called SSS on the alarm immediately and a patrol was sent to assist the guard. The thieves ran away and disappeared into the night. SSS continues to do their bit in fighting the thieves' malicious intentions.

►Dutch Minister for the Interior and Kingdom Relations, J.P.H. Donner, visited Bonaire on Monday, January 10th following stopovers in Saba and Statia. While on the three islands of the Caribbean Netherlands the Minister made island tours, held introductory meetings with Island Governors, Executive Councils and paid visits to the three *Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland* (RCN) offices. The Minister and his delegation returns to The Netherlands on Thursday January 13 from Curaçao.

►Bonaire's budget was down from NAf 130 million to NAf 58 million in 2010, the result of The Netherlands taking over tasks such as education, health care and the fire department. Nevertheless, Commissioner of Economic Affairs, Elvis Tjin Asjoe, says NAf 58 million (of which half is raised by the island and the other half provided by the Dutch Government) is not enough and **another NAf 60 million is needed.** An appeal process has been started and will be discussed with Interior Minister Piet Hein when he visits.



►UPB leader Ramonsito Booi was sworn in as member of the Island Council of Bonaire. He replaced Reginald Dortalina.

►The Bonairean Party for Justice and Unity (PHU) requested the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to examine the trade and/or other agreements that exist between the Caribbean



►Bonaire's first baby of the year 2011, Jose Guillermo Mejia Rodriguez, arrived at 3:54 am on Tuesday, January 4, at San Francisco Hospital. He weighed in at a respectable 2975 grams. His parents, Lus Carime and Rafael Mejia Rodriguez, were presented with a gift and a saving bank book by MCB's Lito the Lion and bank official Lily-Ann Janga (see photo).

Commissioner James Kroon also visited and presented a gift from the island Government as well. Best wishes to the family.

Netherlands and/or the EU (or European countries) and countries in our region (such as Trinidad, Venezuela, Colombia and Mercosur—the Southern Common Market countries). They suggest that Bonaire be a focal point for EU countries interested in trade or transport in the region. The PHU believes that having Bonaire become a commercial and/or financial services center for the Caribbean Basin would be of significant economic benefit.

►In the real estate market there are developments that realtors keep an eye on with interest, **such as the cost of building.** Sunbelt Realty reports that the major suppliers of building materials have decided to keep their prices at the same level as the previous year, keeping building costs at pretty much the same level as they were. Sunbelt has an extensive number of properties which the

owners do not want to advertise the fact that their property is for sale. For more information visit Sunbelt at Kaya L.D. Gerharts 3 & 8 Les Galeries Shopping Mall, Bonaire or call 599 717 65 60 | Fax 599 717 65 70 or email info@sunbelt.an.

►RIJSWIJK, THE NETHERLANDS --Numerous people have donated money to **Laura Dekker, the Dutch sailing teen** who is currently in St. Maarten resting from crossing the Atlantic Ocean. Her father, Dick Dekker, announced that many persons have made donations, but he didn't give details on the amount. "She can go on sailing without having to worry about money," father Dekker said. He estimated that Laura would need €16,000 to continue.

Laura, who wants to be the youngest solo sailor ever to make a trip around the world, is plan-

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New Year Message from the Island Governor of Bonaire

Beloved citizen of Bonaire:

Please permit me a small space in your mind to share some ideas with you as we switch from the year 2010 to 2011.

The year 2010 was a turbulent year for Bonaire. We have seen many changes in the year that just passed. These changes made us go to long moments of thought and debate about the meaning of them all. For each person there is something different of importance in these changes. As Island Governor I consider one change of special historical significance. We the people of Bonaire and our government left the constitutional relationship with the Netherlands Antilles and entered into a new type of relationship with the Netherlands within our Kingdom.

Now we enter the first year in history as a 'public entity'. This status is new for Bonaire and it is new for the Netherlands. We can compare this new structure, the construct we call 'public entity Bonaire', with a newborn baby. Just a few months ago this baby saw the light as a result of Bonaire and the Netherlands coming together.

When a baby is born, it must adapt its eyes, movements and all other abilities to the new world it just entered. This new world exposes the baby to unknown conditions it must adapt and get used to. The baby must learn things adults do by heart. It must learn to eat without help, it must



Governor Thodé
Bonaire Government photo

learn to walk, first at the hands of mom and dad and later balancing alone on its own legs. In the beginning, the baby will spill its food, speak incoherently and stumble and fall. The baby will cry a lot. It will get childhood diseases. But with encouragement and support it will learn to eat and drink without spilling food, it will speak correctly and will learn to walk, run and jump over obstacles along the way.

Even the childhood diseases will eventually pass into history one day.

For the baby to grow up and become as we wish it to be, we all have to lend a hand. Hillary Clinton once said: "It takes a village to raise a child." To raise the public entity Bonaire to the healthy adult we dream of, the support and nurturing of and by every one of you is needed. We need the complete community to help raise this newborn baby to become the responsible entity, standing on its own feet as we envision it.

I call upon all citizens of Bonaire to form a village in 2011, united in our support for our baby New Bonaire. With our support this baby will learn to feed itself, it will start to crawl and continue to develop the ability to walk and then run. Each person has unique thoughts about how to raise our child. Let us discuss our ideals, realities and options as responsible individuals in a civilized society. In a home where there is continuous fighting children grow up with frustrations and traumas. Constant fighting raises problematic adults. I am convinced that the responsible thing to do is to have a dialog about our differences. We need to create a common vision and convert this into policy and effective action to attain the results we want.

I call upon you to embrace our new currency in 2011. Let us also work together in good faith to achieve the positive goals

we were pursuing when we chose to arrange things as they are becoming, for instance our new tax system. Let us embrace each other for an exemplary election campaign, where one supports and champions his preferred candidate without harming the preferred candidates of others. And afterwards, let us close ranks and support our new Island Council and Executive Council. In a structure in which they are separated from each other, after the elections we will enter a new era of government for Bonaire.

Citizen of Bonaire; let us find each other to bring about change into the positive. The feelings of doubt and insecurity that we experienced in 2010 can change into wishes and hope in a future that is of our making. New conditions bring new opportunities to create this future. When we connect our fortune and life to a partner, this does not mean that we enslave ourselves to that partner. Bonaire has entered a relationship of codependency and community with the Netherlands.

For reflection, I wish to close with the lyrics of a Bob Marley song: "Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery; none but ourselves can free our minds."

I wish us all a blessed year 2011 in unity, which will be a very Happy New Year. ■ Glenn Thodé

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Born on Bonaire, October 11, 1973 – Gielbert Alberto

“I was born in Nort di Salinja, had eight brothers and sisters and, what can I say, we went through a lot in our childhood. My dad was a heavy drinker. We were really very poor and there was a lot crime and drugs going on where we lived. It was then that I decided never to drink alcohol or smoke drugs and I never did, thank God.

I went to Mavo at SGB and then to the Maria Immaculata Lyceum on Curaçao where I did Havo. I came back to Bonaire because I had a girlfriend here, Waleska Martinez. We got married October 20th, 2010 – after we had three children and 18 years of living together.

In 2002 I went to Holland with my family because they’d introduced a new school system on the island and the instruction language had become Papiamentu.

Indeed it is our language, but what can you do with Papiamentu in the long run, besides chatting?

Holland is very different from Bonaire and you have to arrange everything by yourself. You’re on your own. Our third child was born there. We lived in The Hague and I was working in Amsterdam as a foreman in a concrete factory – long hours of work and commuting and too little time to spend with the family - and so we decided to come back to Bonaire, which we did in 2007. Another change – a whole new start. Especially for my second son it was difficult. He only spoke Dutch and couldn’t communicate with other children, and at school all the lessons were in Papiamentu.

Well, the children adapted. Our daughter, Hazel-Angela who’s 15 now, is in the fourth grade of



Gielbert with his 10-year-old son Gielbramar

Havo. Our eldest son, Gielbramar, is 10, and he’s in the fourth grade of Papa Cornes Elementary School, and our youngest son, Gilkey, goes to kindergarten. I am a manager at SELIBON and my wife is working for IND – Immigration and Naturalization Service. We are living again in our own house in Nort di Salinja, which we had rented out while we were in Holland.

For 16 years I’ve been doing volunteer work. In 1998 we took over the association, ‘Sentro di Bario di Nort di Salinja’ – the Community Center Nort di Salinja - which in the meantime has been absorbed by ‘Federashon Sentro di Bario’ (Fesbo). All the community centers are now managed by Fesbo and each center has its own manager. I am on the board of Fesbo as the representa-

tive of Nort di Salinja. Many years ago one of our other volunteers, ‘Eddy’ Silos Nicolaas, came up with the idea to celebrate ‘Dia di Nort di Salinja’. Eddy and his friends had been brooding on the concept for a long time, but they couldn’t work it out and when he started getting health problems he turned to Fesbo in December 2009, to ask them if they could help him realize his long time dream.

Because I am the representative for Nort di Salinja I said, ‘Let’s call all the organizations of the neighborhood together and establish a foundation so we can celebrate ‘Dia di Nort di Salinja.’ There were two reasons why we thought a day like this would be important for this village. First of all, the crime rate in Nort di Salinja has gone up and the

Gielbert Alberto

neighborhood has a bad reputation. Secondly, we wanted to give a boost to the self-esteem and the social cohesiveness of the inhabitants of ‘Nort’. Because before, the inhabitants here were extremely proud of their village and that feeling is almost completely gone.

Our culture has disappeared slowly and the children don’t seem to be interested anymore. They are very active, but there isn’t much going on and it comes to a point that everything gets boring and so they get triggered into a negative spiral and they end up having and causing lots of problems.

So, for these reasons we’ve founded ‘Fundashon Nawati’. I became the president, because we

(Continued on page 5)

“Our culture has disappeared slowly and the children don’t seem to be interested anymore... everything gets boring and so they get triggered into a negative spiral and they end up having and causing lots of problems.”

			
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Born On Bonaire (Continued from page 4) needed someone who was experienced, resolute and consistent to pull the wagon. Alex Semeleer became the secretary and Aquiles Francees, the treasurer. Hubert Vis and 'Papito' Felix Thomas are also in our group and Hubert Evertsz and Julisa Melaan are commissioners.

The very first 'Dia di Nort di Salinja' took place on December 15th, 2010. It was a great success, but there are always things that need to be improved to do it better next year. We are very happy with the fact that almost everybody from the village showed up and we got a lot of positive reactions. People were excited to see the Mariachis, to see the children dancing, to see each other, their own people. For me personally it was the most important thing that the people of Nort di Salinja enjoyed being together, to meet each other and talk to each other – that was my goal - to bring back the fellowship, the solidarity and the unity in the village.

Of course we cannot do everything by ourselves. One of the most important things is the finances. It is not THE most important thing – because for me that's God – but we do need money. Fesbo is helping a great deal and I had an inspiring conversation with the governor and he informed me that they're busy starting a project to upgrade the barios and Nort di Salinja could become the pilot project – which I sincerely hope will happen.

For this year 'Fundashon Nawati' is not only planning to organize festivities, but we also want to organize information evenings about sex-education, drugs and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and neighborhood prevention to bring the

crime rate down. We also want to clean up the village and the road at the entrance. We want to conserve and protect our caves and water wells and historical landmarks and we want tourists to come and enjoy all the beauty this village has to offer, also to give our little town an economic boost. Changes are very hard to accept and it will take time, but hopefully the day will come when everyone will feel safe in their own house and in the streets of our own village of Nort di Salinja.

We need volunteers - we always do. I've been busy for 16 years, but you always see the same people volunteering. It's very, very hard to get people. They are either too tired or too old, or they want money for it. It's all about extremely motivated people and money. There used to be lots of organizations, but for many different reasons they always fell apart. We want to get rid of that image– because we are not going to quit and we won't give up!"

Gielbert Alberto is a man who makes the world a better place. It's an honor and great pleasure to talk to someone who gives so much of himself to help other people for no other reason than for them to be happier.

"I am trying to build up the children, teaching them to be punctual, to show up on time, to stick to their agreements, to be responsible for their actions and to respect others. I also tell them that even with a diploma it's hard to find a job and how terribly hard it is to find work when you don't have any schooling. I talk to them about teenage pregnancies, about spending your life on the streets, about drugs and alcohol and I talk to them about God. I am a happy person because I have God in my



Dance group Nawati. The tall girl left of Gielbert is his daughter, Hazel-Angela

life. Without him most likely my life would have been a mess, but because of His grace and love I am here and I can do things for other people. But...I also love to dance, to play soccer and to play pool. I am just like everybody else.

I will tell a child: 'Because your parents live in a government house doesn't mean you can't buy your own house. Because your parents have no transport, it doesn't mean you can't have it. There's nothing wrong about living in a government house or to go places by foot – but... if there is a possibility to improve yourself you should go for it! Make the right choice!'

I want to give the children back their pride and self-esteem and I want them to believe in themselves and their future.

On Bonaire there are two villages which take great pride in their community – Rincon and Nort di Salinja. It's a good feeling; it's in your DNA! Most people here are of European and Indian descent. We've never been slaves, and, speaking for myself, I would never be proud of the slave huts!

In Nort di Salinja we've always fought for our freedom and we're proud of it. I feel good here and I want the other people in our community to feel the same!" ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



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Tsunamis on Bonaire?

Coastal hazards are increasingly discussed by researchers and feared by inhabitants of coastal areas worldwide. When I first heard about Bonaire a couple of years ago, I learned that the island lies outside the Caribbean hurricane belt and only rarely experiences heavy wave damage. When I came here last time in January 2009, the damaging effects of Hurricane Omar (October 2008) were still visible at Kaya J.N.E. Craane. Moreover, this tropical cyclone joins a surprisingly high number of events in the last decade (think of Lenny in 1999, Ivan in 2004, Emily in 2005, or Felix in 2007) showing that hurricane-induced wave action indeed plays a role for the community and coastal infrastructure of Bonaire. But is this the only coastal hazard Bonaire (and the entire southern Caribbean) has to cope with?

Since the end of the 1990s, Anja Scheffers, a geographer now working at Southern Cross University in Australia, established the idea that the huge boulders on top of the cliff at Washikemba, Spelonk, Boka Olivia or Boka Onima might have been transported onshore by tsunamis in prehistorical times. Tsunamis are huge, long waves triggered by earthquakes, landslides or volcanic eruptions in the sea. Their potential destructiveness largely exceeds the one of storm waves which has strikingly been demonstrated by the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004.

Pros for the tsunami hypothesis on Bonaire: All triggering mechanisms described above occur in the Caribbean. Even tsunamis generated in the open Atlantic Ocean may reach the ABC Islands; historical accounts throughout the Caribbean comprise 53 reliable tsunamis within the last 500 years; boulder volumes found at Spelonk have rarely been observed to be moved by storm waves. However, the tsunami hypothesis on Bonaire has recently been challenged by several researchers.

Due to these discussions, Anja and colleagues from the University of Cologne (Germany) initiated a new research project in 2008 which also includes the exploration of tsunami overwash deposits in the bokas of Bonaire. Tsunamis also transport sand, coral rubble, and sea shells into the shallow salinas. If "normal" mud and salt covers these



Jan Brouwer photo

Max Engel and Timo Willershaeuser drilling

deposits afterwards, the tsunami event is archived. Even after several thousands of years, the event may be detected and its age may be reconstructed using radiometric dating techniques. As the PhD student within this project, I conduct drillings to explore the sediment layers of the salinas of Bonaire in search of these tsunami deposits of sand and shells. So far, we found potential tsunami overwash sediments in a depth of several metres far inland at Lagun, Playa Grandi, Boka Bartol, Wayaka, Funchi, Saliña Tam, and Klein Bonaire, supporting Anja's initial hypothesis. The sediment layers seem to represent three major tsunamis around 3300, 2000 and 600(?) years ago.

So far, our research indicates that tsunamis are a potential hazard for Bonaire.

Even though no historical accounts on tsunami occurrence exist from Bonaire, we found geological traces of tsunamis which are older than the historical records.

I use this opportunity to thank STINAPA and DROB as well as Jan Brouwer for their great support during the past three years. Whoever is interested in this research, please write an email to max.engel@uni-koeln.de for further information. I am also looking for photos or videos of wave impacts on Bonaire during the hurricanes mentioned above (see classified ad on page 13). Just email! Thanks in advance! ■ Max Engel

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BONAIREAN VOICES

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BONAIREAN KIDS



Super chefs (not all pictured): Chef Antonio Palmisani from Emilia Romagna, teachers Nick Hoetjes- Offerhaus, Vernon Martijn, Ezy Semelaar, graduate students Grensley Pieters (2006), Derrick Piar (2007), Leonard Janga (2010), Gervin Trinidad (2010), Johnny Cicilia & Chjeni Tokaay (2002) & Sherman Winklaar.

When our children are in primary school we as parents often wonder what their professions might be in the future. Sometimes our parental ego chooses a career for our children: a doctor, accountant, lawyer, teacher, engineer and so on. We can mention a lot more. Very often we as parents think about jobs as waiters, bartenders, chefs or even hotel managers. The hospitality (Horeca – hotel, restaurant, catering) business offers a broad selection of jobs to our children.

Sara Matera (51), General Manager at Divi Flamingo Hotel, and Liz Rijna (48), a teacher in the restaurant courses at SGB (School Gemeenschap Bonaire) Bonaire Junior and Senior High School, have been in the hospitality business for years. Sara Matera is a very well known person in our community who has been helping youngsters realize their passion for Horeca. Liz Rijna is a Bonairean teacher who knows a lot about serving and bartending. Her family (Beukenboom-Rijna) started with Hotel Rochaline in town, home of City Café. At a very young age she learned how to help in the different areas in the hotel and at the age of 16 she was helping as a waiter. She's had a broad experience in the hotel business for more than 30 years.

Liz says, "Through the years we've helped students, chefs, waiters and bartenders to be part of many competitions. Bonairean chefs even compete with different Caribbean islands and have won a number of times. In 2002 the Bonaire Culinary Foundation was founded under the supervision of the AECA in Bologna, Italy, to help Bonairean kids who have passion for Horeca to become the best chefs, waiters and bartenders. A dinner is held every year to raise money for the SGB Horeca students to go to Italy to study for three weeks. So this year at the Chez Nous restaurant at SGB from January 5 to 9 people were invited to spend an evening to taste the best Italian wines in the house and a mouth watering special menu of six courses made by the Italy Stage students under the direction of Chef Antonio from Italy. All the chefs have had experience in specializing in Italian food in Italy."

I had a great experience myself the night of the 6th of January. Everything was special: the serving, the wine and the food. The food was very elegantly finished and tasty. They are real chefs; the food was prepared with love and passion. These chefs have a great future.



Liz Rijna with her students

Sara Matera gives some wise advice: "Whoever wants to work in the hotel-restaurant business should be happy with themselves and do what makes them feel good. Work with passion and wherever you live you can work. They need you all over the world. You may go because Horeca never comes to an end. Of course we'd like to have our own youngsters at home in Bonaire."

This is very true. We need our own people to come back and work for their island Bonaire. If we are thinking about this slogan, "Ban Boneiru Bek" (Come back to Bonaire), we have to think of offering creative jobs for our own people. We have great kids with a passion for cooking, serving and bartending. Some of them are finishing their studies in hotel management, food and beverage or as chefs. Do you have a job to offer them? What is our community doing to support these young men and women's interest and love for this business?

At the restaurant Chez Nous you may make reservations for dinners on Tuesdays at 6 pm and for lunches on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 12:30pm. Call Liz at 700-4639 to make a reservation. Dinners are \$20, lunches about \$12. And have a wonderful experience with our own kids. ■

Story & photos by Siomara Albertus

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



Latin Music Classics



Salsa is a genre of music with origins from the 1920s based on Afro-Cuban folkloric music with touches of other genres of music like Rumba, Mambo and Guaracha. Many Latin musicians in New York were Puerto Rican, and it was these performers who innovated the style now known as Salsa Music, based largely on the Cuban music. Artists prior to the 1970s were Willie Colón, Tito Puente and Johnny Pacheco.

Since the 1980s, Salsa has been popular throughout Latin America as well as in the US and Europe. Salsa has registered a steady growth and now dominates the airwaves in many countries in the world. In addition, several Latino artists, including La India, Marc Anthony, and the Cuban-American singer Gloria Estefan, had success as crossovers, penetrating the Anglo-American pop market with Latin-tinged hits, usually sung in English.

Jody's Music Quiz

Last week's answer: Guantanamo is located in Cuba. Unfortunately we had no winner of the CD last week.

This week's question:

Give the title of one of the hits of Gloria Estefan.

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

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

Jody's

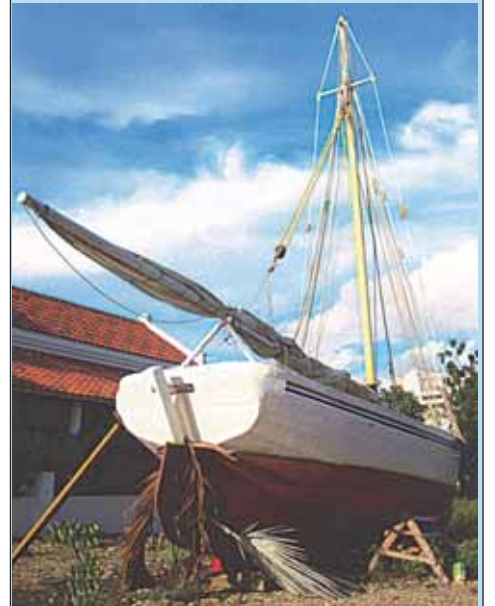
Jody's is the well-known Fashion-shop for men and women at Lagoen Hill.

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

BONAIRE SAILING HISTORY



Within the memory of the older people there is a time when Bonaire's fishing boats were powered only by sails. Today there is only one of these boats remaining. Her name is *Etienne*. But she is also one of the most historic vessels because, under her original name she sailed in Bonaire's first Regatta. Take a close look at her and her all-wood construction while she is ashore for maintenance and bottom paint.

Q) What was this boat originally named?

Q) And who is her Captain?

Answer on page 17

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

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



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.**

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

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) ning to resume her journey towards the Panama Canal in a few weeks. **She was originally set to stop in Bonaire but that is now uncertain.**

► **Sorobon Beach Resort reopened on December 18** as a “unique spot for active leisure guests, who are searching for the unique combination of privacy, luxury and nature, since we are right next to the wind-surfing schools,” according to one of the owners, Floris Dullaart. He and co-owner, Dirk-Jan Methorst, decided to change the concept of the resort from naturism into a more modern, open resort. They commented, “We looked into the naturist market for quite a while but we were not convinced this niche market was increasing so chose to open a resort offering luxury of service, served lunches and cocktails at the beach bar, fine dining in the restaurant and the perfect ambiance for a family vacation. Sorobon Beach Resort has teamed up with Wannadive, Jibe City and Budget Rent a Car to create stay, drive, windsurf or dive packages. A full service Wannadive dive shop is on site. Sorobon Beach Resort is located at the southeast coast of Bonaire, at Lac Bay. This is a unique location with 30 guest rooms, a beach bar, a restaurant and a white sandy beach with cabanas and umbrellas. For more information visit website: www.sorobonbeachresort.com.

► **WILLEMSTAD**—General Manager of Banco di Caribe, Fons Simon, has joined the growing number of voices calling for **Curaçao and St. Maarten to forget about the planned introduction of a Caribbean guilder** to replace the current Antillean one in 2012 and switch to the US dollar instead.

► Effective Saturday, January 1, the US dollar became the new currency of the BES



Islands. Dutch authorities, including representatives of the Dutch Central Bank, will be present on the islands this month. To celebrate the dollarization a special token has been minted. It has a face value of US \$1 and can be bought at the commercial banks. The token has the same diameter and almost the same golden-look color as the official \$1 coin.

► **Florence Ditlow** would like to thank all those who helped supply **Rescue Remedy** to island pets to help get them through the trauma of the New Year’s fireworks.

► **Amcar Freight**, the forwarder that handles much of the sea shipment to Bonaire, has outgrown its current 38,000-square-foot warehouse facility and moved to a brand new 60,000-square-foot facility in Miami, Florida. See the ad on page 18 for details.

► There is a **Dollar Off coupon on page 6** of this issue of *The Reporter* to use at **Go Green**, the new health food supermarket. Check out the popular products where you can save.

► **On Sunday, 16 January, the third Kaminda di Arte (Art Trail)** will

Dutch Caribbean Adopts US Dollar

This article was written on December 31, 2010 in anticipation of the switchover from the Antillean guilder to the US dollar. What it describes is what happened and is happening as you read this.

BONAIRE, Dutch Caribbean. **“R**inging out the old and bringing in the new” holds new meaning for the Netherlands’ BES Islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) on New Year’s Eve 2010. At the stroke of midnight, out goes the colorfully, bird-imprinted bills of the Netherlands Antillean guilder (NAf), formerly the official currency of the Dutch Antilles; in will come the familiar “greenback” -- the US dollar -- as the official monetary unit in these islands.

According to Richard Doornbosch of the Dutch Ministry of Finance, as of midnight December 31, 2010, the US dollar will become legal tender in the BES Islands and the Antillean guilder will be phased out over the month of January 2011.

All accounts will be converted automatically to dollars at a rate of NAf 1.79 per US dollar and all further electronic payments will take place in US currency. After January 31st, any NAf to dollar conversions will take place at the (lower) market rate. Dutch finance ministry officials expect that the Antillean guilder will be essentially out of circulation within a week’s time.

While the American dollar is hardly novel to the Dutch Caribbean – it has for over 20 years been the islands’ second currency, tightly linked to the Antillean guilder – the demise of the guilder has government officials, bankers, businesses and many others working overtime towards a

smooth transition. Management and staff at Bonaire’s Maduro & Curiel’s Bank (MCB), for example, agreed months ago that there would be no vacations or non-emergency leaves after November 1, so that the bank could concentrate of the extra demands of the transition.

The currency change is part of the current breakup of the former “Netherlands Antilles.” Former member islands Curaçao and Dutch St. Maartin went their separate ways as a “status apart” (similar to that of Aruba) from the Netherlands on October 10, 2010 (“10-10-10”) Meanwhile, the much smaller BES Islands are becoming more fully integrated into the Kingdom of the Netherlands as, for the time being, special “public bodies” in the Kingdom.

In some sense this is ironic because the Netherlands, like most other EU countries, uses the euro, not the dollar, as its common currency. However, the BES Islands’ move to the dollar reflects the island’s long-standing tourist and commercial ties with the United States and local business apprehension about negative effects of adopting of the euro here.

On the eve of “dollarization,” Maduro & Curiel’s Bank President Evert Piar said that, after over a year of preparation, “Our combined efforts are almost complete.” Local banks, in cooperation with the Netherlands Central Bank, have developed and distributed packages of US currency and coins for local businesses so that transactions will take place in dollars, beginning immediately with the New Year.

“The real problem,” MCB President Piar says, “is the unfortunate combination of this currency transition with the introduction of an entirely new tax structure: the introduction of a new VAT-style tax on

goods and services with elimination of import taxes and the sales tax, also major changes in local taxes, all at the same time.”

Long-time local businessman, Michael Gaynor, echoed these concerns, pointing out that most business owners “understand the dollar well enough. But this change in accounting,” he added, “comes at just the time when we are forced to understand and account for a whole new tax setup. For the local guys trying to do their own books, this can really be a problem.”

MCB’s Piar explains that “Much of the tax change originating in the Netherlands has come only very recently, the major tax changes having passed the Dutch “*Eerste Kamer*” (Senate) on the 14th of December. There has simply not yet been enough time to understand these changes and to explain them to all who will be affected by them.”

Others, particularly those who experienced the transition from Dutch guilders to the euro, have expressed the concern that the NAf-dollar change will present the opportunity for price gouging with the new prices in dollars. MCB’s Piar points out that “Bonaire’s Department of Economic Affairs, the local business associations, and the Netherlands Central Bank have all been involved in developing and administering extensive controls to prevent this.” Nevertheless, he warns, “It’s just impossible to have complete controls; some effects are inevitable. But we expect these to be minimal,” he said, “and I think we can rely on our island community to be understanding as we work out the difficulties ahead.” ■

Special to the AP by Bob Gilmour



Karel de Regt photo

Rob Mienis, Artist, North Salinja

get underway. The two previous “Kamindas” were excellent and provided art lovers the opportunity to visit the artists and their workshops around the island. Nineteen artists are on the art route. Last time every artist received from six to 20 visitors. See map on page 9 for details.

► **The SGB High School restaurant is open and serving lunch and dinner.** See *Happenings* on page 16 for days and times.

► 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.

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

Airport: Divi Divi Air DAE Air EZ Air Insel Air Valerie’s Airport Shop	Banks: MCB (Playa & Hato branches) ORCO Bank Giro Bank	Restaurants: Bistro de Paris Capriccio China Nobo City Café It Rains Fishes Lover’s Ice Cream-Hato Pasa Bon Pizza	Dive Shops: Blue Divers Carib Inn Dive Friends Tropical Divers WannaDive	Shops: Antillean Wine Company Benetton Best Buddies Botika Bonaire Botika Korona Budget Marine	Chat ‘n’ Browse City Shop DA Shop DeFreewieler Digicel Exito Bakery Green Label INPO Kooyman Napa Paradise Photo Playa Trading	Hotels: Belafonte Bel Mar Capt. Don’s Habitat Carib Inn Den Laman Divi Flamingo Eden Beach Plaza Resort Roomers Sand Dollar	Supermarkets: Cash & Carry Cultimara Joke’s Mini Market More for Less Progresso Sunshine Market TIS Warehouse	Bonaire Zhung Kong Market, Hato	Government: Bestuurscollege RCN Tax Office Building (Playa) RCN Building Customs Parliament BVO The Prison	Others: Bonfysio at Bon Bida Spa Botika Bonaire Botika Korona Budget Marine Caribbean Laundry Centro di Medico Dentist Office Von Egmond Digicel Office Extra Newspaper Office Green Label Hair Affair Harbour Village Marina Health & Fitness Center	Napa Photo Tours RSA Insurance Rocargo San Francisco Hospital TCB Telbo WEB office	Bookstores: Addo’s Books & Toys Flamingo Bookstore	Realty Offices: Bonaire Sunshine Homes Caribbean Homes Harbourtown Realty Re/Max Paradise Homes Sunbelt Realty RINCON: Chinese Store Joi Fruit Store Rincon Bakery Rose Inn Tusnara Market
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January 2011

Letters to the Editor

A MEANINGFUL REFERENDUM

Dear Editor:

I have been reading and hearing a variety of comments by politicians and the media about the referendum vote. They all have spin and seem to say that either there was a poor execution of the voting or that the results show that most people are against the current situation.

Neither one of these is the correct conclusion. What we are not reading or hearing is only one clear result of the voting: The people of Bonaire clearly rejected the referendum itself by a wide margin (65%). They 'voted' with their refusal to show up at the polls to cast a ballot on an ill-conceived and extremely premature referendum.

Since no one in Bonaire can yet know the impact of the status changes that began on 10-10-10 and entered in relatively full force on 01-01-11, no one can evaluate the changes fairly. The referendum was a blatant political move to side-step the legitimate process that was carried out by two different governments to try to honor the choice of most Bonaireans in 2004. Those negotiations were carried out in good faith by both the Patriotiko and Demokratiko parties. The result is the *Openbare Lichaam* structure we currently have.

The appropriate use of the referendum

will be in 2015 or 2016 when there should be a real referendum to determine the will of the people after they have had a chance to experience the new structure. Only at that point will a 'YES?NO' vote have any real meaning.

Just think how many pressing problems the money wasted on the referendum could have helped to solve. Potholes, school lunches, education, social services etc.

Name withheld by request

THE FUTURE IS NOW

Dear Editor:

At 1-1, '11 Bonaire future really begins. Guilders to U.S. dollars, each resident care is assured. There is a dialysis center. More medical facilities. The AOW (retirement) is more: U.S. \$ 543. Other taxes. Are we better off or will it cost? The runway of the airport is renewed. Under construction: the 23th church in the island. No more duty. 8% sales tax. We get entangled and strangled by bureaucracy? Let's just hope for the best.

G.Vellinga

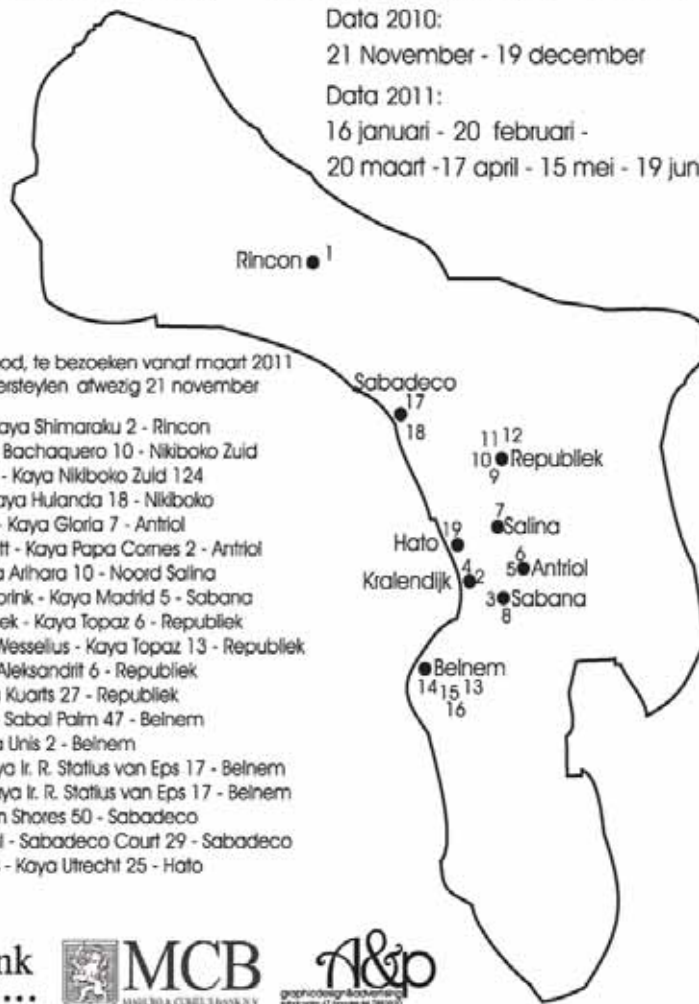
Every Third Sunday of the Month

Kaminda di Arte

bonaire kunstroute - art tour

Openingstijden: 11.00 - 17.00 uur

Data 2010:
21 November - 19 december
Data 2011:
16 januari - 20 februari -
20 maart - 17 april - 15 mei - 19 juni



Numer 12: Lous Rood, te bezoeken vanaf maart 2011
Numer 13: Anne Versteylen afwezig 21 november

1. Nonchi Coffie - Kaya Shimaraku 2 - Rincon
2. Wil Dijkstra - Kaya Bachaquero 10 - Nikiboko Zuid
3. Wolmoet Jansen - Kaya Nikiboko Zuid 124
4. Guno Gerling - Kaya Hulanda 18 - Nikiboko
5. Janice Huckaby - Kaya Gloria 7 - Antril
6. Stephanie Bennett - Kaya Papa Comes 2 - Antril
7. Rob Mlenis - Kaya Athara 10 - Noord Salina
8. Ans Klein Heerenbrink - Kaya Madrid 5 - Sabana
9. Fred van den Broek - Kaya Topaz 6 - Republiek
10. Luz Aida Franco-Wesselius - Kaya Topaz 13 - Republiek
11. José Smit - Kaya Aleksandrit 6 - Republiek
12. Lous Rood - Kaya Kuarts 27 - Republiek
13. Anne Versteylen - Sabal Palm 47 - Belnem
14. Mira Mann - Kaya Unis 2 - Belnem
15. Jake Richter - Kaya Ir. R. Statius van Eps 17 - Belnem
16. Linda Richter - Kaya Ir. R. Statius van Eps 17 - Belnem
17. Edith Foks - Crown Shores 50 - Sabadeco
18. Henk Roozendaal - Sabadeco Court 29 - Sabadeco
19. Monique Reekers - Kaya Utrecht 25 - Hato

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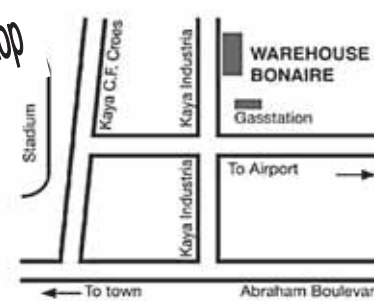
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Maskarada 2011



The fisherman in his boat lands the shark.

Who are those mysterious, silent, masked people? On the first day of January a group of colorfully costumed and masked adults and children show up at the governor's home to dance and perform short skits. They're always accompanied by a group of musicians. Later on they visit various sites in town, homes of honored citizens and even bakeries. The troop performs with mystery and humor, teasing each other and sometimes the audience. They don't speak and only communicate through their actions. Certain characters are portrayed the same every year, but this year, we were told that more children have been invited to join and take over some of the major parts.

There's the policeman who directs the group, the donkey, the shark, the fisherman in the boat, an old kunukero, the matador and the bull. The music starts, led by the accordion, and the dancing begins. During one of the dances the matador (a youngster this year) tries to entice the bull with a red flag. The bull charges through the crowd narrowly missing people with his sharp horns. Finally he's caught and thrown to the ground and all the others, including the donkey, pile on top of him. The crowd loves it. During another skit the fisherman in the boat tries to catch the shark, who "swims" recklessly through the crowd. When he's finally caught he lies on the

ground with his legs quivering in a final death spasm. Although a type of Maskarada does appear in other parts of the world, it's unique in Bonaire. No one knows how the tradition got here. Some say Africa, others say it's Indian. Still others say it's South American or even European. Culture guru Papi Cicilia suggests Spain, saying the "crowns" worn by the company represent the Spanish monarchy which ruled Bonaire for a time. But considering the polyglot makeup of Bonaire maybe the concept came from all those places and then turned into something totally Bonairean that we see today. ■ Story & photos by Laura DeSalvo



The ferocious bull is pulled in.



The young-old "Kunukero" is flanked by big Maskaradas



Come dance with me.....



Some of the younger Maskaradas



↑ *Ayo. They're off to another site.*

↩ *The young matador has lured the scary bull with his incredible cape work.*



Musicians, with Hubert Vis in the foreground, provide Maskarada accompaniment

Food Drive Report

The drive to provide some of Bonaire's less fortunate people a gift of food for the Christmas holidays was very successful with NAf3.500 (\$2,000) collected by Wil and Sue Heemskerk, owners of Wil's Tropical Grill Restaurant, from individuals and Harbourtown Real Estate. Sue wrote to the donors and said, "MASHA DANKI -- MANY THANKS.

First, We would like to thank each and every one of you who donated to Wil's food drive. It was an amazing experience for us. The generosity and the outpouring of goodness and love was incredible. We never thought we could raise that much money. It just proves the point everyone CAN make a difference. From the smallest donation to the largest. It didn't matter what you gave. It is all about caring for one another.

We would also like to thank Pastor Ramiro and his lovely wife Tamara and all the church volunteers for collecting the food, making the sacks and delivering the food. We couldn't have done this without you and them.

You have blessed many families this holiday season. For that we are grateful.

From all of us at Wil's Restaurant (Wil, Sue, Niels, Maria & Danielle).

We wish you and your family a healthy and happy new year!

If you would like to be participate next year - just let us know."

The Reporter will be there next year.

Will you? ■ Sue Heemskerk/ Food



The following are the items we purchased with your donations:

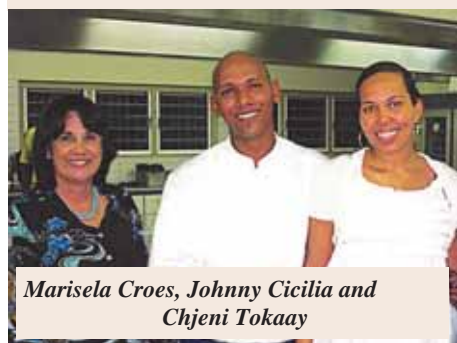
- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 48 Hunts Pasta Sauce | 48 Can Tuna | 24 Tang |
| 58 Milk | 48 Can Hotdogs | 14 Mushroom Sauce |
| 48 Soup Mix | 48 Spaghetti | 14 Spam |
| 48 Can Mixed Veggies | 12 Nesqik Chocolate Milk | 18 Corn Beef |
| 80 Corn Oil | 6 Powered Milk | 24 Can Salmon |
| 55 Sugar | 29 Cookies | 12 Peanut Butter |
| 48 Corn Meal Fungi | 6 Corn Flakes | 24 Fruit Cocktail |
| 48 Can Corn | 6 Fruit Loops | 24 Jar Baby Food |
| 48 Peas And Carrots | 30 Jello | 4 Big Can Formula |
| 48 Canned Hams | 10 Lipton Tea | 4 Baby Cereal |
| 120 Juice | | 4 Baby Juice |



Wil and Sue Heemskerk with Warehouse sacks



World Class Culinary Fund Raiser



Marisela Croes, Johnny Cicilia and Chjeni Tokaay



The servers embrace Vernon



Relaxing afterwards in the kitchen

Molto buono! With our SGB high school culinary team, Michelin star chef Antonio Palmisani from Italy's Emilia Romagna region, Locanda Girasoli, prepared a six-course dinner Saturday night to a sell out audience. Wines were from the Emilia Romagna region courtesy of Antillean Wine Company. This four-day lesson was to upgrade the year's Italy Stage / SGB Students from the past seven years while raising funds for the upcoming SGB Chez Nous 2011 Italy Stage. It is a world experience for these students and most importantly to learn that HORECA is a professional career choice with many possibilities.

Guests enjoyed the fine food prepared by past students Grensley Pieters (2006), Derrick Piar (2007), Leonard Janga (2010), Gervin Trinidad (2010), and lastly our first stage group Chjeni Tokaay and Johnny Cicilia (2002). The current SGB class participated in serving under the guidance of Liz Rijna while teachers Vernon Martijn, Ezy Semelaar and Nick hoetjes-Offerhaus were in the kitchen. Special thank you to Maarten Maartense for his continued financial support for the student's clothes and key sponsor KLM. Danki. Bon Apetito ! ■

Ruud Vermeulen

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BES Islands Hit Hard By Climate Change

According to a report commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of the Environment, climate change poses a severe threat to the marine and terrestrial ecosystems of the Dutch BES islands (Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius) and to the total benefits and services residents derive from these ecosystems.

The report states that key changes in climate expected this century include increases in air and sea surface temperature, an increase in sea level and ocean acidity, an increase in the frequency and intensity of storms and hurricanes, general acidification and greater overall unpredictability in weather.

In terms of the terrestrial impacts of an increase in air and sea surface temperature for the BES islands a decline of mountain vegetation is expected, where the greatest impact can be expected in Saba and St. Eustatius where the elfin forest will be at greatest risk.

The islands will see reductions in soil humus as well as increased air temperatures will negatively impact humus retention capability of soils and can thereby negatively influence both natural vegetations and agriculture.

Potential increases in diseases in animals as a result will upshot from an increase in heat stress impacting reproductive success in plants and animals, which will make them more vulnerable. Moreover, the terrestrial impacts of an increase in air and sea surface temperature will see a change in timing for interactions between species. Also, seasonal food availability for species may be affected or food plants may decrease



or disappear.

A potential increase in invasive species as a result may enhance the opportunity by non-native species to become invasive because the resistance of the original ecosystem against them is weakened while conditions for invasive species improve. Lastly, as a result, changes in ocean currents may change food availability for some shore and sea birds.

In terms of the marine impacts of increased water temperatures of oceans resulting from global warming can have huge effects on reef ecosystems, where there will be immense bleaching of coral reefs. Bleaching reduces coral resistance to diseases, growth and regeneration capabilities.

Additionally, impacts on marine life will see mass mortalities resulting from oxygen depletion. With higher temperatures, oxygen depletion in such areas with restricted water flow will exacerbate, leading to even more frequent fish mortality. ■ *Ministry of the Environment press release*

To be continued.....

SGB Students Get Fit At Bon Bida Spa & Gym



The students of the exam classes of the SGB have enthusiastically attended a gym lesson at Bon Bida Spa & Gym. Owner Robert Smaal made his rooms available for these lessons. After a 30-minute Tai-Bo workout there was training on the beautiful fitness equipment under the guidance of one of the professional fitness instructors. After these successful lessons, the students arranged to train twice a week at Bon Bida Spa & Gym. Bon Bida hopes to contribute this way to a healthy and sporty youth of Bonaire. Fitness Trainer Tina Woodley, right center. ■ *Press release*

Picture Yourself With The Reporter In... Groenendaalse Bos, Heemstede, Holland



Pictured are recent Bonaire visitor Habbo Kooistra, Teun Arnold, nephew of Bonaire resident Charlotte Andrea, Charlotte Andrea herself and Bonaire born Madelief Thode, daughter of Calo Thode and Fleurtje Veldkamp holding *The Bonaire Reporter*. All of them enjoying the children's farm located at Groenendaalse Bos, Heemstede, Holland.

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Picture Yourself With The Reporter In... Maskarada 2011



See page 10

Congratulations

Happy Birthday to **Co de Koning**, "a rare 76 year-old blend," and a true friend of Bonaire. Co divides his time between Bonaire and Europe and numbers some of Bonaire and Holland's most interesting people among his many friends. He's responsible for helping to organize the philanthropic Friends of Bonaire, Daily KLM service to Bonaire and a Kuifje album in Papiamentu. Pabien! ■ *G.D.*



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Looking for a studio, apartment or house. Please email:
alexisaura@gmail.com

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Looking for photos of recent hurricane wave impacts on Bonaire for PhD study on coastal geology. Email: max.engel@uni-koeln.de. Thanks!!!
(On the island until 15 Jan)

Germans living abroad wanted for a MDR TV-feature story*. If you're interested, contact Marlene Giese (NEO productions TV und Film GmbH, 0049-341-35006104 or marlene.giese@neoproductions.de).
* People's stories wanted for the serial feature story, "Wir sind überall" (meaning "We are everywhere"). Looking for Germans coming from the former GDR, Bavaria or North Germany, who live on the Antilles today. The program will show how they work and live and what still adheres them to their native country. People selected will be able to tell their story and they will get a copy of their own film (about 30 minutes).

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: gnaart@bonairenet.com

Fine Art & Portraits by Renate van der Bijl, 717-6500, www.renatevanderbijl.com

JanArt Gallery, Kaya Gloria 7, 717-5246

Atelier José, Kaya Aleksandrit 6, Republiek. Local art, mosaics, driftwood and more. Open: Saturdays 10-3p.m, or call 785-6670 for appointment

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 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
Sat 15		01:39 -0.04 ft	09:05 1.01 ft	18:09 -0.05 ft	21:21 0.05 ft	07:00 AST	18:29 AST
Sun 16		02:01 -0.05 ft	09:42 1.05 ft	18:58 -0.09 ft	22:21 0.01 ft	07:00 AST	18:30 AST
Mon 17		02:27 -0.05 ft	10:22 1.07 ft	19:44 -0.13 ft	23:34 0.00 ft	07:00 AST	18:30 AST
Tue 18		03:00 -0.03 ft	11:05 1.06 ft	20:24 -0.15 ft		07:00 AST	18:31 AST
Wed 19	01:00 0.04 ft	03:48 0.02 ft	11:52 1.02 ft	21:00 -0.17 ft	Full Moon	07:01 AST	18:31 AST
Thu 20	02:17 0.12 ft	05:08 0.10 ft	12:43 0.95 ft	21:32 -0.18 ft		07:01 AST	18:32 AST
Fri 21	03:11 0.24 ft	07:04 0.18 ft	13:39 0.85 ft	22:05 -0.19 ft		07:01 AST	18:32 AST
Sat 22	03:57 0.39 ft	09:05 0.22 ft	14:39 0.72 ft	22:38 -0.19 ft		07:01 AST	18:33 AST
Sun 23	04:40 0.56 ft	10:52 0.18 ft	15:44 0.59 ft	23:11 -0.19 ft		07:01 AST	18:33 AST
Mon 24	05:23 0.73 ft	12:22 0.10 ft	16:50 0.47 ft	23:47 -0.18 ft		07:01 AST	18:34 AST
Tue 25	06:07 0.88 ft	13:38 0.00 ft	17:57 0.36 ft			07:01 AST	18:34 AST
Wed 26	Last Quarter	00:23 -0.17 ft	06:52 1.00 ft	14:45 -0.09 ft	19:01 0.27 ft	07:01 AST	18:35 AST
Thu 27		01:01 -0.15 ft	07:38 1.08 ft	15:46 -0.15 ft	20:02 0.20 ft	07:01 AST	18:35 AST
Fri 28		01:39 -0.13 ft	08:23 1.11 ft	16:46 -0.18 ft	21:03 0.14 ft	07:01 AST	18:36 AST



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APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS and COMPUTERS



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

ART & GALLERIES

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

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DENTURE REPAIR

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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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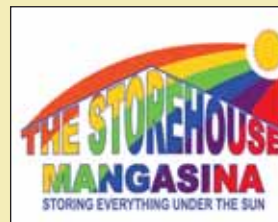


Sunbelt Realty offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.

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

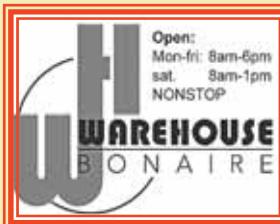
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SUPERMARKETS



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.

WATER TAXI

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Lisa's Beloved and Loyal Metallic Blue CJ5 Jeep

The 82nd of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels." On course for 100+

Bonaire/Nikiboko North –

So it was on one of those lazy Bonairean Fridays that I put on my black helmet, gloves and reinforced leather boots and cranked my single cylinder off-road motorcycle to try to find the Nikiboko North area in which Lisa lived and her well known metallic blue CJ5 Jeep had his residence. Luckily it was not raining anymore that frequently and the roads were not that muddy as before. Sand, little stones and hidden nails were still covering the paved and unpaved roads. I had to find my way to a supermarket and a Chinese restaurant, then something right... I enjoyed the sound and the cornering of the motored bicycle. I loved the Bonairean scenery. Then I saw the nose of the tough all-American vehicle. This had to be the place!

The metallic blue resprayed Jeep CJ5 had been on my list of "special vehicles" for ages. I'd known the car for a couple of years and I can remember having a talk with the owner, she trying to mount or remount or something the right hand rear light. Nice car, nice lady. Then, unfortunately, I lost track. Every now and then I'd spot the car but it appeared not to have its domicile in Hato anymore. And I did not know the name of the lady so I did not know how to get in touch with her and her unique car. Later on I found out that she worked at Pasa Bon Pizza. She appeared to be the co-owner of the company. And Lisa was her name. So we got in touch with each other and I explained my intentions to her. We arranged a meeting.

The short body civilian Jeep CJ5 was produced in the year 1977 in the last century. It is equipped with a straight six 232 cubic inches no nonsense engine. No nonsense stands for: two valves per cylinder, push rods and a carburetor. Lisa bought her Jeep in 1999 in Delaware. The four-wheel drive vehicle served as a "beach

Jeep" or "fishing Jeep," used for surf fishing. So in the first part of its life the car had to cope with a lot of salt. Lisa bought the car from a good friend who was the first owner of the Jeep. The car had done only some 60,000 miles in some 22 years and the chassis and the engine were in very good condition. The body was more or less okay and Lisa only had to pay \$1,500 to her friend to become the new owner.



In 2001 Lisa moved to Bonaire and the CJ5 was shipped from Delaware to the tropical and, in those days, unspoiled island of Bonaire.

On this divers' paradise she enjoyed the reliability of her Jeep for several years. Then the climate started eating up the body of the vehicle more and more. To Lisa the Bonairean climate is more aggressive compared to the Delaware climate and sea. So finally the decision had to be taken to do a major repair and rebuild job to her beloved car. It was Emmanuel Gussman from Emmanuel's Car Centre (the repair shop, located along the unpaved roads behind Warehouse Bonaire, who did the complete rebuild of the tub of Lisa's CJ5. The tub of a vehicle is the section behind the engine bay, the nose and the dash board.) Emmanuel did a lot of welding and replacement and reinforcing to the tub and to some parts of the chassis and he finally mounted all vehicle parts together using lots of polyurethane



A photograph of Lisa's reliable CJ5 Jeep. The quite original, all American made vehicle can be admired on a regular basis, parked in front of, or near, Pasa Bon Pizza, since Lisa is one of the two managing directors of this well known Bonairean restaurant. (Photograph: J@n Brouwer)

spacers and washers. Then the CJ5 was more than road worthy for the next decades or so again.

Lisa's blue Jeep has just the right looks. The car is short-wheel based. The right type of round Wagner halogen sealed main beams are mounted. The dashboard consists of only metal and the most essential gauges. Speedometer is in the centre. Most parts are mounted with bolts and nuts. The bell housing and the clutch connect the straight-six cast iron low revving high torque engine to the three (three! sic!/jb) speed gearbox. It has leaf springs and drum brakes all over the place. Luxury consists of manual Warn free wheel hubs. Four impressive Good-year Wrangler AT/S 31X10.50R15LT tires are mounted, adding a lot of extra grip and a little bit more suspension to the vehicle. After market aluminum made side steps and a solid rear bumper-with-hitch-ball are fitted to the Jeep, registered as 1600-B. An original soft top with soft doors protects the car and the driver against the sun and the rain.

Last year, in December or so, Lisa got an eye on a Kia Curse or something. A modern vehicle with doors, air conditioning and a mirror to check the make up. Luckily she saved the money to give her house a paint job. Painting a house is

probably a better investment than buying a Kia Complaint or something.

Lisa: "I do not know a lot about cars but during the years I've gotten to know a lot of names of parts. The wiper motor has been replaced. It functioned only during the split of a second. I am using RainX now and the result is at least as good as a pair of new wipers. The carburetor and the alternator have been replaced. Now the car is just in need of new fluids and a new speedometer cable. She never had a major overhaul. She is not leaking oil, she is not an oil burner, she is reliable, she always starts, and in fact the whole vehicle is in good shape. So now, after thinking it over, I just cannot really remember why the Kia idea crossed my mind. I bought my partner a real Italian moped and I will spend the rest of the money on paint for the house. What the heck!"

So a 49cc two-stroke Italian made moped is parked on the driveway, alongside a Japanese made double cabin pick up truck. The couple owns three vehicles and that is sufficient on a small island like Bonaire!■

J@n Brouwer



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Cruise Ship Calls -Information provided by the Craft Market

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	Jan-14	Friday market	0900	1400		
Mon	Jan-17	Aida Vita	0800	1600	1260	Aida
		Ventura	0800	1800	3100	P & O
Wed	Jan-19	Queen Victoria	TBA		1980	Cunard
Thu	Jan-20	Caribbean Princess	1100	2000	3100	Princess
		Star Clipper	1400	2000	170	Star Clipper
Fri	Jan-21	Grandeur of the Seas	0700	1600	2446	Celebrity
Sun	Jan-23	Emerald Princess	1200	2000	3100	Princess
Tue	25-Jan	Azura	0800	1800	3100	P & O
Wed	Jan-26	Constellation	0800	1600	2034	Celebrity
Fri	Jan-28	Sea Princess	0800	1800	2016	Princess
Sun-Tues	Thru Spring 2011	Freewinds	0630	2200	150	Scien-tology

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Sunday, January 16-Kaminda di Arte. More info page 9 & 13

Sunday January 16 Clean-up Dive. See story on page 18

Sunday January 16 FUKABO Karnaval Season Opens, 8 pm

Saturday, January 29—Farmers' Market, sponsored by Go Green, in front of church in Playa. Info call 717-2222

March 5 and 6.- Karnaval Grand Marches

March 18 and March 19—BON DOET -BON DOET is the Bonairean version of the Oranje Fonds' NL DOET that brings volunteers and organizations together to learn and benefit from each other. (www.nldoet.nl/bonaire)

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.

Tuesdays

- **SGB High School Chez Nous Restaurant**— 6 pm multi course dinner, \$20. Reservations 700-4628.

Wednesdays

- **SGB High School Chez Nous Restaurant**— 12:30 multi course lunch, about \$12. Reservations 700-4628

Thursdays

- **SGB High School Chez Nous Restaurant**— 12:30 multi course lunch, about \$12. Reservations 700-4628

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

Fridays

- **Jong 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 presen-

tation 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Kaya Sabana #26, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Services (Translation to English and Papiamentu upon request) 10:20 Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors welcome: Call 701-9522 for information.

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

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Body Talk

CAN WE SLOW THE AGEING PROCESS DOWN?

Yes, you are right, it is a loaded question, but if you think I have a 'super pill' or a 'magic potion' to slow the ageing process down, you are wrong. Can you imagine the wealth and fame that could come if someone 'invents' that super pill! Sorry to disappoint you, but that super pill does not exist.

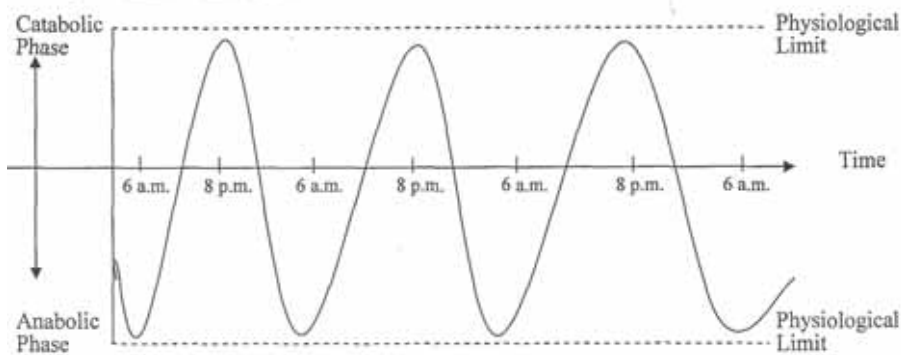
What does, however, exist, is the clear and concise knowledge of what happens to the human body as it ages. Up to the age of about 30, very few people even think about getting old. We have all been there, making plans for the future (there is always a tomorrow when you are young), very few health problems, if any, and certainly lots of energy to work, to play and to party. Unfortunately, as we start heading towards the 40's we seem to have more worries, do not always sleep too well, quite often wake up feeling tired, cannot party all night long, stress about everything and we seem to take life very serious (most of the time). Of course, as we get older all these 'little things' get much worse. Worried about old age, finances, our children, health problems and worried about the changing world around us. Sound familiar? Most people put all this down to 'getting older', and they are right in that sense. But no-one has told you is that as we get older, we lose our adaptive capacity to ageing and disease. Allow me to explain.

More often than not, we have had some bad (and some very bad) eating and drinking and lifestyle habits for many years. Slowly over a period of time, we lose our adaptive capacity. Adaptive capacity could mean a strong constitution or a high level of resistance to illness and disease, or the ability to cope with various stresses.

The reason we, over time lose our adaptive capacity is that there is a loss in amplitude of our normal diurnal cycle. A healthy person's diphasic metabolic cycle is such that every 24 hours this person goes through a complete diphasic cycle which consist of a catabolic phase (daytime) and an anabolic phase (night-time). The catabolic phase peaks at about 8 pm in the evening and the anabolic phase peaks at about 6 am in the morning.

See Fig. 1

Fig 1. Balanced + High Vital Reserves = Powerful Adaptative Capacity



Bonaire New Year Poem

Frogs are singing in synchronicity,
Bats are clicking in cacophony,
Waves are lapping lasciviously.
Yes, nature's harmony is Bonaire's way.

Bombs blow belligerently,
Dogs shriek from the bowels of hell,
And shrapnel falls on us all.

Then the discordant surreal becomes Bonaire's way.

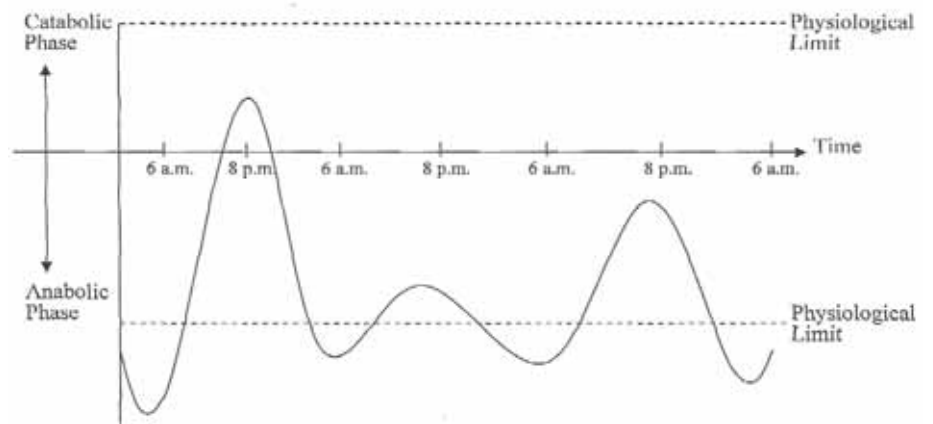
I ask myself: For which sounds of the
New Year
Does Mother Earth perk her ears and take
notice?

By Pauline E. Kayes, 1-3-2011

Kayes is a professor Emeritus in Champaign, Illinois, USA. She has conducted poetry seminars and competitions at Bonaire's SGB High School

In a catabolic phase (daytime), a balanced person has the ability to mobilize reserves for productive activity and during the hours of 8pm to 6am mobilizes reserves conducive to rebuilding and recharging in resistance against the catabolic stressors of the preceding day. What happens then with ageing, is that we gradually lose our vital reserves as we begin failing to reach the normal physiological limits of either phase. See Fig. 2

Fig 2. Anabolic + High Vital Reserves = Frequent Acute Anabolic Crises



This person does not function at peak capacity each day, does not sleep restfully every night and is fast running out of steam to face life's challenges – be it a health crisis or everyday stress.

The gland most involved with regulating your diurnal cycle is the hypothalamus, and in the next issue I will explain how we force our body into a very destructive cycle (or habit) that is often very difficult to break. ■ Stephanie Bennett

To be continued in the next edition of *The Reporter*

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



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Sudoku Solution
Puzzle on page 7

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

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Reef Windows
Opening Bonaire's Dive Sites

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

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

BonQuiz Answer

Bon Quiz (from page 7)

Q) What was this boat originally named?
A) *Sislin*

Q) And who is her Captain today?
A) *Ishmael Soliano*

Pet of the Week

Once in awhile there is a dog brought into the Bonaire Animal Shelter that has such fine character and is so special that even though it may not be adopted right away the staff feels it should be kept and taken care of until the right person comes along. That's the case with "Jaap," this very handsome blond male dog. Jaap is about two years old now and has been at the Shelter for awhile, but he's such a good dog, enthusiastic and smart, that he's been welcome to stay for as long as it takes for him to find a new master or mistress. "He's so easy to train," the staff says, "and he'd make a great guard dog." As Shelter manager Marlis says, "Jaap is one of my favorites!" Just look at that alert profile and you'll understand what the staff means. Jaap has been declared healthy by the vet, has had his tests, worming, shots and is sterilized. The dog adoption fee of \$75 includes all that plus a microchip which records the dog's number and is connected to the owner's name.



Jaap

when we first started publishing the number of adoptions. That year there were 90 cats and dogs adopted. This past year almost 900 animals were brought into the Shelter. That's a lot, but not so much as in the year before (2009), when there were almost 1,200 animals brought in.

The *Kouchi pa Bestia* (the drop off cage that is outside the fence) turned out to be a big success. There were 80 pets 'dropped off' there. About 50% of these animals were reunited with their owner or have been adopted. And some of them are still in the Shelter waiting for a new owner!

The Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Their comprehensive and up-to-date website is: WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com ■

Laura DeSalvo

The Shelter has always been headquarters for lost dogs and cats, especially during the end of the year fireworks season. They are happy to say that they have reunited lost dogs and cats with their owners numerous times. Call them at 717-4989 if you've lost a pet or if you've found one. They put the announcements on the radio as well.

More congratulations to the Shelter. According to Shelter Manager Marlies, this past year set a record with animal adoptions: a grand total of 217 for the year (164 dogs and 53 cats)! That's quite an increase from the early days, in 2002,

Bubbles From the Biologist



photo by Paul Patitsas.

Did You Know... A spiny lobster can stay alive out of water for several days!

One of the tastiest creatures to inhabit the reefs of Bonaire, the spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*), gets its name from the large spines that cover its brown and yellow exoskeleton, which help protect it from predators. If kept in a cool, moist environment, these lobsters are able to live out of water for a long time because they are gill-breathers; as long as their gills are moist, they can extract oxygen from the air instead of the water. They also have excellent navigational skills and migrate back and forth to their mating grounds as well as to deeper reefs during the hurricane season. Many creatures feed on spiny lobster, including turtles, octopuses, nurse sharks, and humans, so many in fact that

the lobster has become increasingly rare in Bonaire and in parts of the Caribbean. You can help the spiny lobster by only eating mature lobsters that are caught legally from healthy populations. ■ Paul Patitsas

Patitsas is a marine conservation major studying at Juniata College in the US and studied abroad at CIEE Bonaire. He has spent much of his life in the Bahamas and hopes to do research there. http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/car_spiny_lobster.htm



Dive Friends/NetTech Clean Up Dive Coming Up

On Sunday January 16th a clean up dive will be organized by Dive Friends Bonaire and NetTech. All divers, snorkelers and shore helpers are invited to join this clean up dive.

Get together at the Dive Inn, next to Donna and Giorgio's Italian restaurant. Meet at 9:30 am and sign-up is free. The organizers of the event plans to clean the underwater world in front of the South Pier, situated close to the Dive Inn. Air tanks will be supplied by Dive Friends free. At five o'clock on the Sunday after-

noon an after dive barbecue will be organized at the Yellow Submarine-location of Dive Friends Bonaire, situated along the boulevard at Playa Lechi #24.

Free food and drinks will be provided by the organizers. Clean-up dive participants are invited and should bring a side dish. Enjoy life and have a nice after dive dinner. "Without blue there is no green..." ■

Story by J@n Brouwer



Dive Friends photo

Clean Up Divers

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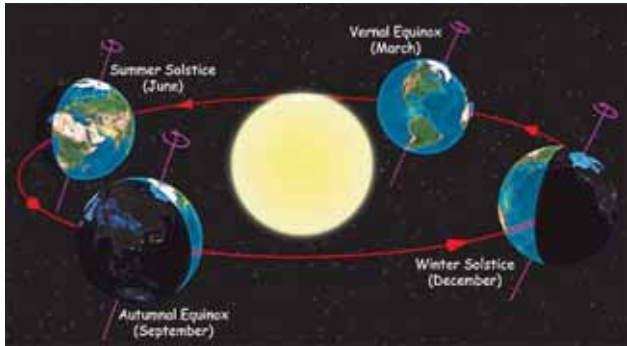
"The Reasons For The Seasons"

If someone asked you, "Why is it colder in January than in July?" could you give the correct answer? Well many people would tell you that the reason it's colder in January is because our Earth is farther from the Sun in January than in July. But believe it or not that is about as far from the truth

as you can get because our Earth was at its closest point to the Sun for the year on January 3rd and will be at its farthest point this year on the 4th of July. So why is it colder now if we're closer to the Sun? Let me explain.

If our Earth's path around the Sun, its orbit, were a perfect circle and if our Earth were not at all tilted the weather and the seasons would be approximately the same all year long, year after year after year. But about 400 years ago an astronomer named Johannes Kepler discovered that our Earth does not travel around the Sun in a perfect circle but rather in a stretched out circle called an ellipse and that our Sun is not at the center of that ellipse. So as the Earth makes its annual trip around the Sun the Earth's distance from the Sun changes. It's always closest in January and always farthest in July. Some calculations suggest that this change in the distance of the Earth from the Sun would result in about a seven degree variation in temperature, but that's not enough to account for the seasons, is it?

The major cause of the different seasons is due to the tilt of our Earth. Right now we're experiencing the cold of winter but only in the northern hemisphere, above the equator. Everywhere south of the equator is experiencing summer. Now our Sun always puts out relatively the same amount of light and heat. But in the northern hemisphere winter our Earth is in the place in its orbit where the northern hemisphere is tilted away from the Sun and thus the Sun's rays strike less directly on the northern hemisphere than the southern hemisphere. So right now in the northern hemisphere the Sun's rays are less direct



and thus it's colder for us than in the southern hemisphere where the Sun's rays are more direct, so it's warmer in the southern hemisphere.

Conversely when our Earth is on the other side of the Sun in July, even though it'll be at its farthest point for the year, our northern hemisphere will be tilted so that the Sun's rays will be more direct upon it. So we'll have the heat of summer while the southern hemisphere will be tilted away from the Sun's rays, so it'll be winter time for them. It's really as simple as that. Now this does not mean the Earth flops back and forth. Earth's axis always points to the same spot in space. What matters is whether the axis is leaning toward or away from the Sun. So the reason for the seasons is because of our Earth's tilt. Our distance from the Sun has very little to do with it.

In fact when our Earth was closest to the Sun on January 3rd it was only 91 and a half million miles away. But every day since that time the Earth has moved farther and farther away from the Sun and on this upcoming July 4th will be 94 and a half million miles away. And that 3 million miles doesn't make a heck of a lot of difference temperature wise. Another part of the story is that the length of day time and night time changes also. During winter the length of daylight is shorter than the length of night so there is less time for the Sun's heat to warm up the daytime side of the Earth and more time at night for that heat to escape back out into space. So this week ask somebody to explain why it's colder in January than it is in July and see what kind of answers you get. ■

Dean Regas, Cincinnati Observatory



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
January 2011 Horoscope

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You will do extremely well if you get involved in competitive activities this month. Don't hesitate to take short trips. You will enjoy physical activities more than you think. False information from someone trying to start problems is likely. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You have made an accurate assessment of the situation and have come up with ideas that will save money. You'll regret every word for some time to come. Don't let children or elders put demands on your time. Family outings that aren't expensive will be enjoyable and help strengthen ties. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Take a look at the possibilities of starting a small part time business with friends or relatives. Communication will be the source of your knowledge and you must be sure to spend time with those who have more experience. Use your creative flair. Make plans to do the things you enjoy. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Mingle with those who have similar interests, and you should be able to start something. Compromise if you wish to have any fun at all. Dealing with in-laws or relatives will not be in your best interest. Much knowledge can be obtained through the experiences you have. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Inharmonious situations at home may be extremely upsetting for you this month. Be careful that you don't overextend yourself. Join a choir or a drama club. You may be considering moving to larger quarters. Try to get out and socialize. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Abrupt changes in your home may send you for a loop. Career changes may not be your choice right now, but in the long run they will be to your advantage. It's a good time for long awaited relationships to begin. Join a club to work off that excess energy; but consider ways of doing that without spending the money. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sun-

day. **LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Large organizations may try to talk you out of your hard-earned cash. You can take advantage of opportunities if you are quick to make a move. The information that you gain can be used in every aspect of your life. You'll find travel or involvement in large groups gratifying. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 -Nov. 22) Raise your self esteem and your confidence if you want to get back into the mainstream again. Listen, but don't make any rash decisions. You may not see your situation clearly. You will have a blowup this month if your partner does things that you feel are not aboveboard. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Be sure to get involved with those who can introduce you to unusual forms of entertainment. This will not be the best month to initiate change. Secret affairs may be brought out in the open. Organize your day well if you wish to accomplish all you set out to do. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You will find that social activities will be enjoyable and will promote new connections. Do your own research and be prepared. Positive changes regarding your personal status are evident. You need to spend some time getting to know this person all over again. Your luckiest events will occur on a Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't give out any personal information that you don't want spread around. Spend time with youngsters this month. Think twice before you pursue an unrealistic endeavor. Put your energy into moneymaking ventures. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Minor health problems may flare up if you haven't been taking care of yourself or have been burning the candle at both ends. Assist a relative or good friend by setting up a budget for them. You should be able to get involved in an interesting proposition this month. Avoid any over indulgences. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday. ■

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2010 In Review

The year 2010 was an important one in Bonaire's history by any measure. The island completed a 300-plus-year transition from a Spanish or Dutch colony to a Dutch overseas territory, to a part of the country of the Netherlands Antilles to an integral part of The Netherlands, with the catchy name of a "special municipality."

The transition date, the symbolic **10/10/10, passed smoothly** but was really just a "soft opening" for 2011 when the mechanics of the new governmental arrangement, like taxes, dollarization, benefits, regulations and structure come into force. The transition RDC morphed into the RCN to provide information and services that are supplied by The Netherlands.

The Referendum that was to assess how the people felt about the deal struck with Holland was on again-off again, then on again where it was ignored by a vast majority of Bonaire voters, thus making it totally invalid anyway.

Bonaire made world news and US TV when a naphtha tank fire at the **BOPEC terminal burned for days**, sending up spectacular fireballs and smoke.

Luckily it did not threaten the nearby **Ecopower electric plant** which became operational in 2010 and is providing all of the island's electricity in conjunction with the wind turbines on the east coast of the island. Just as the turbines became opera-

tional the trade winds fell to almost nothing until the so-called Christmas winds started to blow.

Another fire, the burning of the high school buildings off Kaya Amsterdam only made local news.

Bonaire's climate was extreme. A prolonged drought at the beginning of the year was followed by repetitive rainy days towards the end of the year. Between October and December Bonaire had nearly three times its average annual rainfall.

And it was a good thing the **sewage treatment plant began construction.** That's because the cesspits at LVV became saturated from the rainfall and couldn't accept any more sewage from the tanker trucks. The excess was dumped at Puerto Spaño in the northeast area of the island.

Lionfish, first noticed in local waters in 2009, had a population explosion. Now Lionfish can be seen on almost every dive which prompted a return of spear fishing



to Bonaire. Only Lionfish can be shot, however.

Bonaire's National Marine Park was nominated for inclusion on the provisional candidate list of UN's World Heritage Sites. Despite promises, Bonaire's reefs received almost no relief from the tsunami of sewage from shorefront facilities. The treatment plant will not be operational until the second quarter of 2011.

A Biodiversity Bombshell was detonated when Harbour Village hired loaders destroyed the nests of endangered species in the nearby Salinja Vligt.

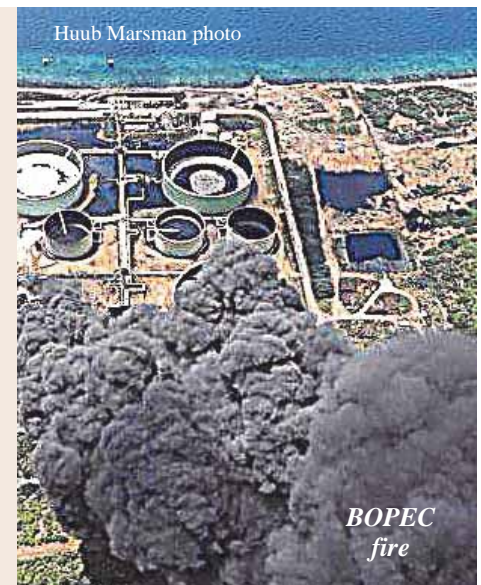
Earthquakes continued to increase in the Caribbean: Strong quakes hit Haiti, Eastern Venezuela, Montserrat, Aruba, and more tremors were felt in Bonaire.

An Environmental Plan to protect nature that defined land use for all Bonaire was approved, but remains controversial.

Divi Resorts finally abandoned its plan to build on the Sunset/Bonaire Beach/Playa Lechi site. The island's biggest eyesore, the Quonset hut, was dismantled. The "Save Sunset Beach for People" campaign began on September 10 following a survey that said **80% of Bonaireans don't want a big hotel on that site.**

New Prison opened in Bonaire – to accommodate prisoners from BES islands.

Kas di Arte celebrated its 10 Year Anniversary of with original exhibiting artist,



Ronald Verhoeven. Kaminda di Arte (Art Trail) began December 19. Every 3rd Sunday of the month it is possible to visit artists in their homes and studios

The Reporter started publishing a **Spanish language page**

PHU party filed a lawsuit to grant voting rights in local elections to immigrants who have had legal residence in the BES for five years or more- a legal right in the European Netherlands- but specifically blocked for the BES Islands by the Dutch Parliament.

And finally **two new traffic circles** were completed which helped traffic flow and reduced accidents; still no traffic lights on Bonaire. ■ G.D.