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FREE**



BONAIRE February 11-25, 2011 Year 18, Issue 4 **The REPORTER**

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 790-6518, 786-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com Since 1994



Top— Papa Lucia (right) sells some of the produce grown on his kunuku. With Virma and Don Minguel Boezem.

Bottom— Tina Woodley (left), the organizer of the Farmer's Market, speaks with Agnes Joosten, a representatives of Kriabon, the farmers' Co-Op

Flotsam and Jetsam

BONAIRE The REPORTER

If you do not receive your voting card by mail by February 16, 2011, you may pick up your card at the Civil Registry (*Bevolking*) beginning February 17. Be sure to bring all paperwork showing your right to vote.



Laura Dekker's boat Guppy tied up in Bonaire at the Plaza Resort

► Laura Dekker, the controversial Dutch sailing teen trying for a "youngest" circumnavigation arrived in Bonaire last Saturday morning after an uneventful downwind sail from Dominica. Welcome her, Bonaire! More in the next edition.

► THE HAGUE--Member of Dutch Parliament Marianne Thieme of the Party for Animals Pvd is questioning the legality of the upcoming Dutch Provincial States elections since residents of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba cannot participate in these elections.

Thieme posed a series of questions to Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations Piet Hein Donner on the possible illegal status of the Provincial States election on March 2.

Residents of special Dutch entities Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba can't vote in the Provincial States elections because they do not live in a province. To enable their participation, the Dutch Constitution needs to be adapted and that takes at least a year.

According to Thieme, the fact that BES islanders don't have indirect voting rights for the First Chamber is not only against the Dutch Constitution, but is also in violation of the principle of equality as defined in international treaties.

► Realtor Corine van der Hout of Sunbelt reports in her recent newsletter that "so far the devel-

opments in the real estate market are confirming what we have told you before: the market is definitely stabilizing with a trend of steady prices and plenty of sales. In addition we are noticing that the local financial institutions are showing a positive attitude to local real estate values by offering better financing conditions and by showing an active market approach."

For buyers this means that doubts you might have had about the value of an investment on Bonaire are minimized.

Average Bonaire house prices are lower compared to Holland. The town of Blaricum has the most expensive houses in that country, with an average price of almost €800,000, according to website *Woningmarkt cijfers*. The cheapest place to buy a home is Pekela in Groningen, where the average house price is €32,000.

► Mrs. Sharon Bol has been appointed as Interim Director of the Tourism Corporation Bonaire



(TCB), effective immediately. In this role, she will be responsible for overseeing all the activities of TCB, its overseas offices and supervising its staff members. The position is for at least two months. Most recently, Mrs. Bol acted as Interim Director of Bonaire's National Library.

"I am pleased to accept this new position at Tourism Corporation Bonaire and look forward to working closely with the staff on Bonaire and in our overseas offices to ensure a seamless continuance of TCB's efforts," said Mrs. Bol. "Looking at the importance and growing demand of the tourism sector, I welcome the challenge to work on the many local and international projects planned for 2011."

A search for a permanent Director of Tourism for TCB is in progress.



Bonaire Government photo

► The large-scale renovation of the runway of Flamingo Field, Bonaire International Airport (BIA), will begin on Sunday, February 13, 2011. The renovation will take four to five months. Disruption to air traffic and passengers will be kept to a minimum and most flight schedules will be maintained.

From February 13 to March 27, the airport will be closed to air traffic on Sunday, Monday and Wednesday from 6pm to the following morning at 4am. On Tuesday and Thursday, closed from 7:45 pm until morning 5:45am. On Fridays and Saturdays the airport will operate normally. In case the carriers adjust their flight schedules, this may change somewhat. After late March, the closing times of the airport will change.

The renovation is carried out by contractor Janssen de Jong Caribbean in cooperation with Bonaire Road Construction Company (BWM). Since a large amount of asphalt is required, a special airport asphalt plant will be installed (photo above).

In addition to the renewed runway and turning aprons, new lighting, new approach lights and display boards will be installed. The tower is to be equipped with a new electrical system and control system. The whole airport area will receive new fencing and a new fire fighting approach to the runway will be built. Eventually, a new fire station will be built.

The cost of the renovation work amounts €15 million (almost \$20) and will be paid by Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment.

► The first prisoners from Statia and Saba were transported to Bonaire's new prison last Wednesday which is in keeping with revised judicial procedures for the BES Islands. Six prisoners were sent by private plane to Bonaire on Wednesday, while another four were again sent from Saba to Statia, this according to Statia Police Chief Duco Koolstra. In the past prisoners from Statia and Saba were accommodated in St. Maarten's Pointe Blanche prison.

► We are sorry we have nothing to report about Bonaire power failures. The Reporter's consistent efforts to get a report from the current manager of Ecopower on Bonaire, Vincent Kooij [vlkooij@ecopowerbonaire-bv.com, 717-4823], have been



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Bumper Sticker Promotes Beach For Bonaireans

A new, colorful bumper sticker was introduced this week to bring more public attention to the possible loss of the old Sunset Beach property. According to various sources, the government is considering giving the land to condominium developers or selling it for the construction of a large hotel.

"We hope that everyone who wants to develop this property for the benefit of Bonaireans will put one of the stickers on their car or in their store or car window," said Elsmarie Beukenboom, one of the founders of the effort. "We want the government to know how the people feel. Over 2,000 Bonaireans voted in our poll and 80% of them said they wanted a public beach while less than 20% chose a large hotel. But that doesn't seem to be enough evidence. So we have created the stickers."

The free stickers are available at the Chat 'n Browse store next to Lovers Ice Cream on Kaya Gob. Debrot and also at Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn as well as from committee members.

According to Beukenboom, too many people in the government believe that Bonaire needs more hotel rooms to get more flights to the island. "That used to be the case years ago but it is a totally new ball game now. The only way to get airlines here or to any out of



The Bonaire Ocean Center would offer free access to one of Bonaire's best beaches for island residents. Shops and concessions would make it self supporting. This is a photo of the beach from the late 80s.

the way destination is to pay the airlines big money," said Beukenboom.

"Why don't we forget about adding more hotel rooms and just pay for the flights. That way we can fill the empty hotel rooms that we have now. Many of the hotels are struggling and some may go out of business if a new large hotel or condominiums are built at that site.

We already have several half finished projects on the island that need to be finished before another project is started."

The organization leading the action wants to bring permanent jobs to Bonaireans and to keep the income from the development on the islands instead of having the profit go to Holland or the USA.

In the plan developed by local citizens, all of the 5.2 hectares (12.85 acres) of the old Sunset Beach property would be turned into the Bonaire Ocean

Center, a major family oriented park for residents and tourists. There would be a number of shops and businesses that would be owned and managed by Bonaireans.

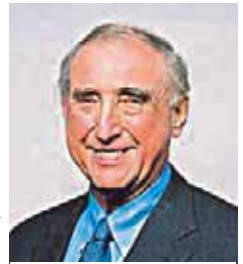
There would also be an amphitheater for shows and concerts, a visitors center and museum along with playgrounds, exercise tracks, restaurants, a boardwalk, an in-ocean pool and a boat launching area. The plan also has a party pavilion that could be rented for weddings or special events as well as public toilets and plenty of parking.

In all there could be 8 to 10 locally owned businesses at the site so that Bonaireans have the opportunity to create small businesses and profit from this development.

The proposed plan also has the STINAPA offices located at the site as a central location for the Marine Park Operations. "We are also considering a small hotel with conference center facilities," said Beukenboom. "But the main idea is that the area will primarily be a public facility and could be a major

tourist attraction for our island."

The group has secured an agreement from world-famous architect Peter Bohlin to help develop the site. Bohlin is known for his design of the Apple Computer stores around the world as well as Pixar Studios and the home of Microsoft's Bill Gates.



Architect Peter Bohlin

Bohlin also designed the building that houses the US Liberty Bell and the educational center of the Grand Tetons Nation Park in the US. He has a great deal of experience in developing tourism projects in nature that protect the environment as well as attract visitors.

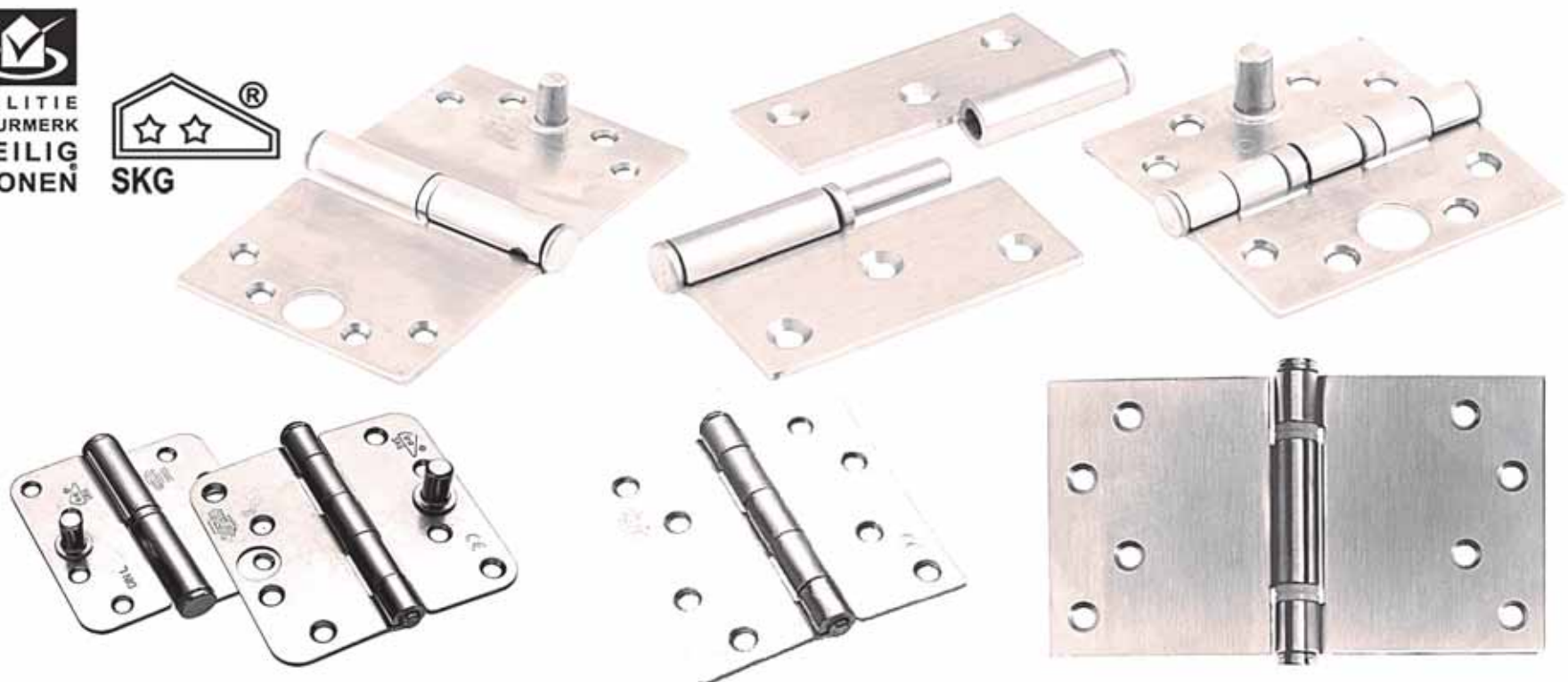
■ *Bonaire Ocean Center Press release*

Send your old photos of Sunset Beach to The Reporter. reporter@bonairenews.com



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On the Island Since... 1991 – Mieke Smit

“We came to Bonaire for the first time in December 1990. In Holland we were living indoors more than eight months a year because of the weather. We had sold our computer business and were not working anymore. Both of us were in our 50s. We fell completely in love with the island and started looking for a plot of land to build on. January 1991 we came back to buy the land. Looking for a place to stay I met Buchi Frans – he still is my friend – and through him we found a house at Kaya Den Tera where we lived for more than two years while our house was being built in Sabadeco on the sea.

Kaya Den Tera was great; there was a little shop across from the house and that’s how we got to know many local people. In 1993 we moved to Sabadeco Shores. It was very quiet as we were the first people living there! We

never locked the house and nothing ever happened...

Gerard and I loved to work in the garden. We installed a drip-system, we dug holes and we put in our terrace ourselves. I also played tennis.” *She laughs.* “Not that I knew how to play, but boy, was I having a good time! Every morning we would swim a couple of kilometers together. You see, we had a great marriage, we got along wonderfully; we were best friends and we loved each other and we laughed a lot and often!

November 1996 Gerard was involved in a car accident. He was hit by a drunken neighbor and smashed his head against the windshield. During the days that followed he suffered from a bad headache until two weeks after the accident he decided to go for a swim. He dove off the pier into the sea and right at that moment a massive stroke hit him. A blood

clot caused by the car accident had ended up shutting off the vein in his brain. Somehow he was able to grab the ladder and thank God a friend of ours, Jos, was there and together we pulled him out of the sea.

First thing I did was call John Akkermans and he arranged everything – John was unbelievable!” *She tears up and smiles and then she pulls herself together.* “The first two days Gerard stayed here at the hospital and then the ambulance flight took him to the hospital in Curaçao. He stayed there for three weeks while I was moving heaven and earth to get him back to Bonaire. New Years Eve 1996 -1997 we flew to Amsterdam. After being hospitalized he went to a rehab center at the Overtoom in Amsterdam. In the beginning there was very little he was capable of doing until our son Eric got upset with him and told him ‘Dad, you have to do something,

we don’t want to lose you!’ From that moment on Gerard started fighting his way back.

Niek Zandman was ever so gracious and offered the coach-house of his ‘Villa Betty’ for me to stay. It was very close to the rehab center. It made all the difference in the world because from then on I could see Gerard whenever I wanted.

We stayed in Amsterdam until October 1997. I’d bought a wheelchair and I remember clearly Gerard pointing his finger at the wheelchair and shaking his head ‘No’! When we arrived on

Bonaire half the island had come to the airport to welcome us. Gerard walked in with his cane - I followed with the wheelchair. We went back to our house, but because of all the steps it had become way too dangerous. Another house of ours was under construction and when it was finished we moved there. However, our daughter Marlou and her husband Fried-Jan thought we should have a wheelchair accessible home so that’s what we built; it was super!

We were always together; I

(Continued on page 5)



Mieke Smit

“I’ve become a real Bonairean lady, oh yeah, absolutely! When the Antillean flag went down on 10-10-10, I sat there and cried...”

							
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On the Island Since (Continued from page 4)

took care of him by myself and I taught him how to speak again – we had long conversations, precious moments... If I'd leave the house, it was only to buy groceries or go to the bank. Every year we went to Holland. Once in all those years the insurance offered me a vacation and I went to my sister's in Canada for 14 days while a nurse took care of Gerard.

Gerard passed away March 21st, the first day of spring, four years ago. He fell and broke his hip and he was operated on and then he got 'a chemical heart attack' as the doctor called it. A second one followed – on Bonaire - and then he was transported to Aruba. The two eldest children flew over from Holland to be with him – something that made him extremely happy. Then he got a third heart attack. My feeling was he didn't want anymore, he just couldn't do it. However, our eldest son insisted he should be treated in Venezuela, but in the ambulance, in front of the hospital in Aruba, he passed away. Gerard was buried on Bonaire and on his tombstone we wrote: 'A man in each and every way – Bonaire is my island.'" *She looks at me.* "It says everything about who he was."

Mieke Smit is a charismatic

lady; she's got a healthy dose of humor, great stamina, she's warm and caring, but she knows what she wants and she's got guts! "After the funeral I went to Holland where we held a memorial service and our son Eric spoke beautifully. I stayed for a fortnight and then I came back to Bonaire to deal with it on my own. First I couldn't sleep because in all those years I'd gotten used to checking on him during the night. Then my sister in Canada told me, 'You have to sleep on his side,' and from then on it went better.

I've been going back and forth to Holland frequently and the same for Canada where my sister was very sick. Over the last years I've spend more time in Canada than on Bonaire. My sister died November 4th, 2010. I had just returned to Holland, but it felt right. I'd taken care of her as much as I could and we'd talked about everything that was important to us."

She smiles "The children expected me to come back to Holland, but that's not the case! Gerard and I have six children; he had two daughters, Marlou and Pamela., I had two daughters, Veronica and Madelon, and together we had two boys, Eric and Frank – one family! Seven grandkids! I am proud of all of them. But... let's be honest, all

the children have their agenda, their work, their friends.

I've become a real Bonairean lady, oh yeah, absolutely! When the Antillean flag went down on 10-10-10, I sat there and cried. Isn't that silly? But you know, it's been 20 years of my life... Bonaire is my home; I am very attached to this island. Things have changed here too, but without going too deep into that subject, there is one thing I'd like to say to the newcomers: 'Treat someone else the way you want to be treated yourself...'

I am 73 years old and I am proud of it. Here I have friends from the old days who are very dear to me as we shared joys and sorrows, but also new friends I've met along the way. Everything feels familiar; people know me and I know them – Dutch and Bonairean. I do lots of things: gardening, upholstering, sewing and I even keep the street free of weeds and when the garbage truck passes by, the men applaud for me! I am running my household and Helene from Rincon has helped me doing so for the last 19 years. Since Bon Bida opened



Mieke looking out over her beloved Bonaire

its doors I've become a regular every other day. I've lost quite some weight and I do feel really fit! I take life the way it comes to me. When I was 45 I had leukemia and it took me 10 years to get cured; it was a miracle I survived. Everything you get you should approach positively. Of course," *she laughs*, "that's no guarantee of anything, but at least you spend your last years in a positive way. Now and then I feel lonely, but... as long as I stay busy it will pass. However, I notice that I do need discipline and regularity. If that gets messed up, I feel it. My children

bought my house, so I'm living in their house now and it's fine. I smoke my cigarette and drink my wine, but only in the evening! You know," *she looks at me pensively*, "after Gerard died, someone told me 'Now you will have some time for yourself' - I was stunned because it never occurred to me that I had missed out on something - you see... there is no explanation for love." ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



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Island View

Clean Beaches

My child just came home smelling of beer and cigarettes. It might have been a familiar experience when dealing with an 18-year-old after a party, but my child is only one year old and his partying skills have not developed yet. His only "crime" would have to be that he was very curious while playing on the beach.

It must be that some people live in an alternate universe. In their world nothing warms a mother's heart more than the sight of her 15-month-old child offering her a beer bottle with the remaining beer dribbling over its shirt. In their reality nobody is worried while a toddler stuffs his or her face with cigarette butts. And nobody shudders at the thought of glass bottles and bare feet. Must be such a carefree world to live in.

In my world it is not possible to relax anymore when you go to the beach with your young child. I mean honestly, have you seen the state our beaches are in? The fact that your child is still in its oral phase means that you have to be on your toes at all times. Sand, shells and rocks are destined to earn their ticket to your toddler's stomach. No, let's make it even more difficult for parents and mix everything up with some bottle caps, forks, band-aids, napkins, chicken bones, cigarette butts, cups, cans, bottles and doggy poop.

There was a time when all you needed to worry about was whether you had put your towel on some *pegasaya* (the prickly seeds of a species of grass), which gave you a nasty surprise when you tried to dry yourself off. Today it has become a whole new adventure, one I really do not like.

For me a day at the beach is about sea, sun, sand and nature. And when I go home, I want to leave it in the state I found it. I cannot read the minds of those "alternate universe" people, but it seems they are either incapable of cleaning up after themselves, or they find the beach with just sand and rocks too boring so they get creative and add some things.

For the "creative" people the message would be: get your own sandbox and happily add whatever you like! The people with the cleaning-up problem are unfortunately and evidently abundant. We need a new state of mind for the way we treat our beaches.

Let's pretend we had to buy our beaches. And let's say that we found our best deal at IKEA. At all the other stores the beaches were a lot more expensive, and when you bought those you got extra features like "self-cleaning," "more than just sand" and "barbeque-proof." But as usual we were tight on money so we had to settle for the "do-it-yourself" beaches. So we came back to Bonaire with our newly bought beach, and what is the first thing you do after buying something at IKEA? Right! Read the manual first (yes, that means you too, men). And here is what it will say:



Beach Litter

Dear Customer,

Thank you for choosing our special "do-it-yourself" beach. With the proper care it can last you a lifetime, generations, in fact indefinitely even. The possibilities with our product are almost endless: you can play in the sand, sunbathe, have picnics etc., etc. The enjoyment of your experience is very important to us, so we kindly ask you to keep the following in mind. Trash does not magically disappear and if you are capable of bringing your stuff to the beach, you are certainly capable of taking it home with you at the end of the day. You don't leave your bathing suit, towel or sunglasses behind, so, please, don't leave behind your other stuff (cigarette butts, chicken bones, beer bottles, etc.) either.

■ Story by Mary Ann Koops



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BONAIREAN VOICES

WHAT YOU SOW IS WHAT YOU REAP



Family crises can cause a children to turn away from the right path or become bully objects by their peers. Others end up with unwanted psychological scars that take time to heal. What can you do to save a child from the brink of self-destruction?

The Youth Care (*Jeugdzorg Bonaire*) Program is aware of all these problems. Youth Care had become a concern of the RCN (*Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland*). The program consists of home care, foster care (at this moment there are 26 active foster parents), family homes and a living center. Mrs. Ellen Cornelissen, the project leader for youth care explains, "The Youth Care program is for all children and parents who need more support than those organizations with a more preventive character can give. We deal with the problems that children are confronting in their own homes. The main goal is that parents take the responsibility of raising their own children and to solve problems they have in their own situation. We are very willing to support these families in overcoming their problems. Starting at the age of eight, a child with complicated problems will be sent to a Living Center where they can live for a while and professionals will care for them. Some children need psychological help and they will get this kind of attention too. Bigger kids like up to 22 years will receive special care from other professionals. All children who are living on Bonaire who have severe problems, no matter what nationality, become a concern of the Youth Care Program. If a kid needs a loving and safe home he or she will be placed in a foster family when the situation at their own home is not safe. This will be done by the Youth Care and the legal office for parental care. Of course every child is different. So the Bonairean citizens (nationality is not a issue, as long they can care for another child) who sign up to become foster parents are screened by this office and the best match will be found for these children.

The Youth Care is supervised and financially supported by the Dutch Minister for Health Care, Welfare and Sport. Foster parents will receive a compensation for the expenses of the child. In the past we used to have the *Gezinsvoogdij* Institution (Legal Office for parental care) doing most of the jobs. Today the *Gezinsvoogdij* has passed the task over to Youth Care which is more structural and can supervise the needs of a child in school, at the *Voogdijraad* office, in the neighborhoods and through other organizations that care for the welfare of the child, like SEBIKI. Each case will be well taken care of. We've had many good experiences with foster parents who have had successful results with foster kids. The children gain more confidence, become stronger and can contribute to a community that is facing all kinds of problems.

The focus of the program is on the whole family - children and parents at the same time—because with time we hope and

want these kids to go back to their biological parents. All that matters is the welfare of the child in connection to their family. If you are a person who feels you can become a foster parent to help a child, you may sign up at the *Jeugdzorg Bonaire* youth care office above OMNI Electronics on Kaya L.D. Gerharts or call 717-7707. There are many ways of contributing to Foster Care, like long term, short term or in a crisis situation. We will explain all this during the information evenings which will be held on:

14th Feb.: Above Omni in Papiamentu
15th Feb.: In Centro de Bario Rincon in Papiamentu

17th Feb.: Above Omni in Dutch
All evenings from 19.00 until 20.30 All interested persons are invited." If you are able to take care of a child, open your heart and share your love with the kids so much in need of a stable home. You will be blessed in a great way. If you sow love, you will reap love. ■ *Siomara Albertus*.

EXPERIENCE OF A FOSTER PARENT

From childhood she was a person who loved children. She always dreamed of having a house full of children. When she got married she asked God for four children and God granted her wish with two girls and two boys. But she always wanted to have more children. She was introduced to a representative for the VWS, Health Care, Welfare and Sport, Mrs. Marga Drewes, and Marga introduced her to Mrs. Cornelissen. What is her experience of being a foster parent? This mother of four recently became a temporary foster parent of a child who needed loved and protection. She (41) explains, "There are a lot of children out there who need to be loved and well taken care of. If you care for a child, from any age you want, you can share your home with this child. In the beginning the child needed to get adjusted to us, but in a few days it went easier. My relationship with my foster child is very good and the child is learning to adjust to this second home very well. Everything is based on love and attention. Although I know this is a temporary home for the child, I'm giving someone else a helping hand, to cope with a situation that is not safe for the child itself. Think of your contribution to a better community. We as foster parents can't have contact with the biological parents for a month, but after that with the help of the Youth Care Program we can help and guide the parents. My children are very happy that they have a new sibling. Everyone is happy. When my husband is taking care of the child everyone's attention is on the child, while I'm taking care of the household chores. I'm very happy that I can teach someone else's child so many things and I realize the child is a fast learner. The child was even able to learn how to pray and this gives me great satisfaction that I can help someone to be happy and safe." ■

Siomara Albertus

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



Latin Music Classics



Juan Luis Guerra, born in 1957, is a Dominican singer/songwriter, who has sold over 30 million records, and won numerous awards including three Latin Grammy Awards in 2010, including Album of the Year. His pop style of music has garnered him considerable success outside the Dominican Republic. Juan Luis Guerra actually uses the basics of Bachata, but he does not limit himself to one style of music. Instead, he incorporates diverse rhythms like Meringue breakthrough, Bolero, Salsa and even Gospel. The musical breakthrough came in 1990 with the release of "*Bachata Rosa*," which became a major hit and earned him his first Grammy award. The album, having sold more than five million copies at that time, allowed Guerra to keep touring Latin America, the US and Europe. Until the year 2011 he is still listed in the charts and popular all over the world.

Jody's Music Quiz

Last week's answer: "You're No Good" was the No.1 Hit of Linda Ronstadt. This week's winner is Theo Te Brinke! He can pick up the free CD at Jody's on Lagoen Hill #18.

This week's question:

What's the name of the band that always plays with Juan Luis Guerra?

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

Please send your answer to: info@jodysbonaire.com and be entered in a drawing to win a CD of your own choice in Jody's shop at Lagoen Hill #18.

The winner of this week's contest will be announced in the next edition of *The Reporter*. ■ *Jo Bux*

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

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

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

BonQuiz #46

Hotel Rochaline



On Bonaire, buildings, businesses, homes and even infants are often given names composed of other names, sometimes the names of the family's children. For example: "Glenzery," the father would be Glenn, and the mother would be Zerytza. The Hotel Rochaline is named for the children born from one family.

Q) What is the family name of the owners of Rochaline?

Q) What are the names that Rochaline is made up of?

Answer on page 17
Christie Dovale



BonQuiz appears regularly in *The Reporter*. It's prepared by Christie Dovale of Island Tours. To arrange a tour, contact her via her website: IslandToursBonaire.com Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456
Email: christiedovale@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.**

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

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) consistently deflected and we have no news to report on the performance of Ecopower. Ecopower is responsible for generating all of Bonaire's electricity delivered to homes and businesses. WEB buys the power and distributes it to customers.

In past weeks Bonaire has experienced significant power failures that create problems for homeowners and business alike.

The brisk trade winds have been blowing since Christmas time and the wind turbines should have been producing a significant proportion of the island's electricity. Is it?

Sometimes wind turbines can generate undesired signals that disturb the performance of weather radar systems, showing up clutter that can be interpreted as rain showers. The ABC Island Meteo radar seems affected by this (see http://www.meteo.an/Radar/Img_Radar_ABC_Cappi_Loop.asp).



► **THE HAGUE--Queen Beatrix turned 73 on Monday, January 31.** At this age, she is the equal of King Willem III as The Netherlands' oldest head of state. He died in 1890 as a ruling king, aged 73. There are 2,000 women aged 73 who are still in a paid job in Holland, as is the queen. Photo is with grandchildren on the ski slopes by *Fame Crawler*. Queen Juliana was 70 when she abdicated on the day her daughter and successor Beatrix was celebrating her 42nd birthday. Queen Juliana vacated the throne in 1980 because "her strengths were diminishing" as she put it. The queen's official birthday is April 30, which is co-celebrated in Bonaire as Rincon Day.

► **THE HAGUE--The natural biodiversity in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba was the topic of a meeting in the Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber on February 8.** Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) Director Kalli de Meyer was invited as were members of Parliament's Permanent Committees for Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, section Nature and Environment, and Kingdom. Earlier an amendment was approved by Parliament earmarking 600,000 euros to draft an integral management plan to strengthen and protect the environment and manage the rich biodiversity of both maritime and terrestrial nature in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. This took place in consultation with the local nature organizations.

► **The departure tax (sometimes called the airport tax) counter at Bonaire International Airport** moved from the central hall to the former office of Insel Air, in the corridor next to the check-in desks and stairs.

Since October 2010, the airport tax for all airlines except DAE has been included in the ticket price. In time, DAE will also be included but until then, passengers flying with DAE must pay the airport tax at the new location.

► **As part of an educational project At the High School (SGB) students will study ways for the school to use solar energy in**

the future. In this way can help support some of its own energy needs. SGB has plans to build a new school building for the academic track HAVO VWO on Kaya Amsterdam. This new building should be equipped with solar panels that convert sunlight into electricity. The Water and Energy Company of Bonaire (WEB) will support the new pilot project. SGB and WEB have an agreement on enhancing cooperation in a pilot solar power. Messrs Lauxen (SGB) and Palm (WEB) last Friday put their signatures to the pilot project. The new building on Kaya Amsterdam is part of a comprehensive plan of the Ministry of Education to upgrade the schools on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. In the autumn of 2010 the Ministry allocated more than \$22 million for this.

► **According to Bonaire Commissioner Tjin Asjoe Bonaire is reorganizing its government apparatus to improve the provision of service to the public.** All interrelated government departments will be centralized under one management. There will be a total of four different managements, namely Spatial Planning and Development, Society and Healthcare, Supervision and Enforcement, Operations and Support. These will be implemented in phases during the next four years.

Simultaneously, government will work on the professionalization of the personnel in order to optimize the provision of service for the population.

► **Artist Ronald Verhoeven** is on the island and will be selling his popular paintings from his atelier. Verhoeven captures the very essence of Bonaire in his work. See an example on page 6.



► **On February 17 a Master Class will be given by two of the three baritones** who will be performing this month: Marco Bakker and Ernst Daniel Smid. This Master class/workshop is intended for singers on Bonaire with an outspoken talent and experience. There is no entrance fee for this interesting learning activity. Organizers expect a broad interest for this Master Class. A pre-selection will take place with auditions on Friday, February 11, at the Cacique Hall at Plaza Resort at 6:30pm. A jury will select the eight singers who will participate in the class. President of the jury is Raymundo Saleh. Other members are Hans Faassen, piano teacher, and Frans Lauxen, choir director. Singers who are interested can subscribe by telephone: Hans Faassen, 717-5767/796-2067 or Frans Lauxen, 717-5658/788-3807 or through website: www.classicalmusicbonaire.com The Master Class is open for the public and the entrance is free. We kindly ask you to announce your visit through the website before February 15. www.classicalmusicbonaire.com under the heading: MASTERCLASS

► **Health Alert: Unilever US and the US-FDA has conducted a nationwide voluntary recall of Slim-Fast Ready to Drink products in cans due to possible health risk—due to the possibility of contamination with Bacillus cereus.** This product is available on Bonaire and many of the cans are already out of date, nevertheless they are still on store shelves. At least one person on Bonaire has become ill. ■

G./L. D.

A Special Evening With Three Baritones



Three baritones, Marco Bakker – well known from the musical "Cats"– Ernst Daniel Smid – the first man of the program "Un Voce Particolare," and Henk Poort – who had the title role in "the Phantom of The Opera" – will bring a splendid music show to Bonaire, on the beach of the Plaza Resort at the Coconut Beach Bar, starting at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, February 16.

They will bring a repertoire of some opera and operetta from Italy and Austria, themes from well known musicals, ballads from the American songbook, Negro spirituals, Antillean songs and jazz standards with songs of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis, Jr. In short: a show with a wide variety for all the people who love music and singing.

In the short pre-program: the Tutti Frutti choir and dance group from Bonaire, a prelude to the three baritones with some surprises. Tickets are \$ 25 at the gate and \$20.- in the presale at: Addo's Books and Toys, Flamingo Bookstore, Plaza Resort and restaurant Blue Mecong. See poster on pg. 6. ■ *Press release*

Where's Monica?



We thought you might want a report on hometown tennis prodigy, Monica Ann Winkel. Following training at the Henk van Hulst Tennis Academy in The Netherlands she is continuing her education at the University of Louisiana - Monroe, earning academic honors (2008-2010 Sun Belt Conference Academic Honor Roll) and a high position (#113) in the college tennis ranks. She's in her Junior (3rd) year.

In the spring of 2010 she earned All-Louisiana honors ... had a perfect 7-0 singles record against Sun Belt Conference opponents ... and more.

Monica learned tennis under the direction of coach Robby Domacassé in Bonaire before being recruited to one of the top tennis academies in The Netherlands, where she earned top performer and top junior athlete accolades. Monica is the daughter of George and Patricia Winkel. She has one older brother, Edward, and one younger brother, Philip. ■ *G.D.*

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Letters to the Editor



BONAIRE DOES NOT WANT OVERWINTERING VISITORS.

Dear Editor:

Bonaire's new immigration rules provide for 'overwinterers'. This is an excellent idea because there is a large potential market for the island economy catering to "snowbirds" who want to escape European or North American winters - in our case Canadian winters which create an additional urgency. We have wintered in Bonaire for 11 years without encountering much problem . . . until now. Unfortunately, with the formal recognition of the "overwinterer" has come a set of rules that make Bonaire actually very unattractive as a destination for overwinterers. For us it means that we now have to consider quite seriously whether to sell our property and go elsewhere.

In the past the requirements that were applied were reasonable. One could stay two weeks, one could apply for a 90-day stay at the end of that. After 90 days one could leave the island and re-enter for another 90 days so that a six-month winter stay was possible. Later the requirement to own property and show proof of financial competence was added. Still no problem.

But now the rules have become much less accommodating. Upon proof of ownership of property, adequate finances, insurance, and a certificate of good conduct from the police, and with the payment of over \$350 per person, one can extend the initial 90-day stay for another 90 days. If you leave the island, the permission lapses. When the permission lapses, no re-entry is possible for six months.

"Overwinterers" are thus unable to take tourist journeys to South America, or trips to Curaçao to purchase things, or to Aruba for entertainment. They already pay property tax, in some case also income tax, but are now asked to pay a significant extra charge in addition.

Possibly the rules are not yet completely worked out. Possibly the IND is not yet familiar with them - it has taken us three visits to their office and several hours of waiting to find out this much. Possibly there is some mistake somewhere. But as things are now the message is coming through loud and clear - Bonaire does NOT want overwintering visitors.

Ian and Dorothy MacDonald

First Impressions of the Island through the Lens of A Student

Dear Editor:

My name is Joanne, and I've arrived on the island very recently to pursue my academic endeavor of medical school at the

St. James School of Medicine. Arriving on the island a few days ago, I naturally felt the blatant differences between Bonaire and my home in the metropolitan city of Toronto. Now, I am no stranger to the globe, and have seen the beauties of a Caribbean island before, as well as diversity and manner of living of various other countries, so I was well able to appreciate Bonaire for its many positive characteristics, as well as acclimatize myself to the aspects which I wasn't used to. Let me share my first impressions with you.

From the moment I left Toronto, it was an arduous journey getting here, what with all the excess weight baggage fees, faulty booking times for flights, as well as Insel Air delayed flights that were apparently operating on "Caribbean time." I was travelling with another student, and we both found this quite a hassle to endure, as we packed our bags according to the specifications found on the website, yet we were still charged. We thought that the journey had started off on a negative footing, but were pleasantly delighted when greeted with the island breeze and the optimal weather of Bonaire. This was certainly a welcome change from the freezing temperatures of Toronto that I had endured only hours before.

Next, I was astonished by the sheer miniature size of Flamingo Airport, however, this is understandable because the airport is well able to accommodate all the visitors and flights arriving on this small island. "Bon Bini," I was greeted by an airport staff, and found the locals of Bonaire to be hospitable and courteous.

After attending to airport formalities, I boarded a taxi to the Golden Reef Inn, where I felt that the taxi driver was trying to fleece us for extra cash, even though the cab fare was included in the hotel reservation, and he well knew it. Although he was very polite to us, there didn't seem to be a hindrance on his part to make a few extra bucks even at the expense of students. I hoped that scamming like this was not any indication of the behavior of people in Bonaire towards the medical students here. However, things improved from here onwards.

The next few days were spent taking long walks on the scenic beach, lunching in Kralendijk, and also running various errands which gave me an opportunity to interact with the locals. I found the locals to be courteous, helpful with directions, and going about life with a relaxed Caribbean demeanor. It was a welcome refreshment from the hustle and bustle of a busy city lifestyle from which I had come. The memories that will linger with me from my first few days here were the simple things, such as feeling the warmth of the sun upon my face, and the weather of the tropics with its greenery, ideal temperatures, as well as its pristine clear waters. I look forward to exploring the activities of what this island has to offer. Going Scuba diving and exploring the rich marine life in the surrounding waters of Bonaire is certainly on my to-do list, along with seeing some flamingos, and visiting the donkey sanctuary.

If the experience I've had in my first week in Bonaire is any indication for what

to look forward to, I am sure I'll like it here. Coming to Bonaire makes things slow to a comfortable pace, well at least until school resumes in a few days...

Joanne Nazareth

APPROVED DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS FATAL FOR THE REEF

Dear Editor:

I have always had admiration for STINAPA and its efforts to preserve the nature on Bonaire. Its informational paper *MAKUBEKEN* is an excellent instrument to inform the people about the condition of the island's nature, particularly of our coral reef, and about STINAPA's projects for restoration of nature on Bonaire. In the last issue of *MAKUBEKEN* I read the following section of the editorial (translated from Dutch):



In the beginning of October, the Island Council laid down the *Ruimtelijk Ontwikkelingsplan* (Land Development Plan) Bonaire. In this plan, a lot of space has been designated as natural areas. This is in conformity with the *Natuurbeleidsplan* (Nature Management Plan) which is much older. It is good that it has now also legally been established.

It is certainly true for the Bonaire's land areas and salinas.

I really cannot understand that the editors of *MAKUBEKEN*, after studying the approved development plan, did not come to the conclusion that, although it may be beneficial for the land areas and salinas, it will have fatal consequences for the 52 km long coral reef, the main asset of Bonaire for bringing tourists and divers to our island.

It is very disappointing that the authors of the plan, the small Dutch consulting company RBOI - *Buro Vijn* - during its work on the plan, did not realize the crucial importance of the reef. The reason, in my opinion, is that the consultants, being specialized in making development plans for municipalities in one of the most densely populated country in the world, have, unfortunately, no experience with projects abroad. Therefore, they lack the necessary know-how to make a development plan for a Caribbean Island with a unique coral reef where the conditions are completely different from The Netherlands.

Already in 1992, Miguel Pourier, the Bonairean-born former governor of the Netherlands Antilles, leading a group of experts, stated in his famous report on the future development of Bonaire, ordered by the island's Executive Council, that the main task of the government was to protect the coral reef, the most important asset of Bonaire. That means no mass tourism, and no new hotels. Specific measures necessary for the preservation of the reef are described in the report, going even so far that it recommends a limitation of hotel rooms and diving. In no case, must mass tourism be promoted.

The Pourier Report emphasizes that an overwhelming majority of the Bonaire inhabitants (and, unfortunately, also all political parties and the people in the gov-

ernment) take the presence of the reef for granted, not realizing its fragility. The report concludes that in case the reef is seriously damaged or disappear completely, it will mean the end of tourism on Bonaire. According to the recent report of the Environmental Commission on Bonaire, the condition of our reef worsened considerably during 2009.

Several recent scientific studies have shown that the most important factor for destroying coral reefs are not hurricanes or effects of global warming and subsequent bleaching but the coastal development. An example in the Caribbean area is a total disappearance of the main reef on Grand Cayman, along the famous Seven Mile Beach, after hotel development along it took place. Unfortunately, when Bonaire's reef is severely damaged or partly destroyed, it will be much worse because no beautiful beach will be left like that on Grand Cayman. Bonaire will not be attractive anymore and all new hotels which would be built in the frame of the planned development, so much favored by the government and also by the TCB, will lack guests.

It is really very sad that the pleas in the Development Plan, concerning the reef protection, are only empty words because it at the same time advocates the necessity of development of Bonaire in order to accommodate the growing number of inhabitants which, according to the plan, will reach 25,000 in the coming 10 years. About 3,000 new homes are planned to be built for this purpose and new industrial plants and hotels will be constructed. You would expect that the plan will at least recommend the prohibition of new construction along the coast and the completing of the construction of the Esmeralda hotel when a new hotel will be built (otherwise, this eyesore must be demolished). However, unfortunately, these ideas did not occur to the authors of the unfortunate plan.

Once the reef on Bonaire is destroyed, there will be no hope for its recovery like it recently happened in the Phoenix Islands Protected area in the southern Pacific, the world's largest marine protected area, where during El Nino of 2002-03 the bleaching killed all the coral. The main reason for this fastest reef recovery the scientists have ever seen has been the absence of any coastal development and the abundant fish (For details see the January 2011 issue of *National Geographic*).

Jiri Lausman

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Cover Story **Farmers' Market A Hit**

People complain that Bonaire is not like "the old days." Among other thing in the old days Bonaire grew most of its own food and the grain to feed its livestock.

We experienced the feel of the old days when we visited the Bonaire Farmers' Market. Organized by Tina Woodley it was held on Saturday, January 29, on Kaya Caracas, behind her Go Green Health Food store. Anyone may participate. Hooray for Tina who moved the market from talk to reality. She makes all the arrangements and fronts the cost. When it's tallied up it's divided among the stand holders. "This is fun," said Donna Wuyts, who brought her 15-month daughter, Ava, to see the stands, "and there are so many healthy things to buy."

The market featured an amazing assortment of drinks, plants, vegetables and fruit all grown on Bonaire. The Farmers' Cooperative, Kriabon, had exotic seed flown in from The Netherlands and animal feed.

What exactly is a farmers' market and what makes it so special? A farmers' market is one in which farmers, growers or producers from a local area are present in person to sell their own produce, direct to the public. All products sold should have been grown, reared, caught, brewed, pickled, baked, smoked or processed by the stand holder. It's tough to grow things on Bonaire. The scarce water, blistering sun, insect and reptile pests, birds and the wind all contribute to the difficulty.

A local food market is not only about reducing our carbon footprint, lower food costs, healthier products. It's about strengthening our community and restoring the values that made Bonaire special.

More can be sold at the next Farmers' Market: Remedies from local herbs, honey, preserves, cheese, goat meat, poultry, candy, baked goods, live animals, prepared foods, beverages, and more. If you want to sell what you produce call **700-5488 (Tina), 786-7776 (Papa) or 796-6777 (Nerry) for information.**

But for sure visit the next market. It will be held on **Saturday, February 26, from 8am-2pm.** ■ G.D.



Surrounded by spinach



Raja Dhou had plants and will soon be offering Bonaire distilled Tequila-Tekibon



LVV-Bonaire's Agricultural Service was there with plants and seeds. No, Rocky is not selling his beautiful granddaughter.

Cas Cadushy Opens

After many months of their own personal hard work and with the help of friends, Eric and Jolande Gietman opened the gates of *Cas Cadushy* to the public on January 28th, with the exhibition "First of Eleven" by artist Nochi Coffie, music, live performances and snacks and drinks.

Cas Cadushy is the home of the traditional distillery of the famous green Cadushy Liqueur. You can see how the **liqueur made from cactus** is created right on the premises, and of course, sample some for yourself. Relax in the tranquil, shaded garden under the ancient kalbas tree. And there's also a small children's playground to keep your young ones entertained.

This garden, traditionally called *Plasa Diego*, was formerly known as THE spot to host local dancing parties. Today, there still remains a stage and a large dance floor.

Some parts of the *Cas Cadushy* estate are over a century old like the ancient *Kas di Hala* heritage house and *Cinelandia*, Bonaire's oldest theater. This spot is now also the new home of *The Bonaire Heritage Foundation*, dedicated to preserving this island's interesting culture and history. For now, the Foundation has a small Heritage Center where you can retrace our past, but there will be much more in the near future. The foundation is also committed to the continued restoration of the *Cinelandia Theatre* for future generations to enjoy.

The new *Cas Cadushy* garden and distillery welcomes visitors and locals alike to come and enjoy their lovely new location and raise a glass of their unique liqueur with them to toast the future. It's adjacent to the old *Cinelandia* complex in the center of Rincon on Kaya Cornelis. D. (Nechi) Crestian.

Visit their website for more information at www.cadushy.com or call 786-8769. ■ Press release/G.D.




Eric Gietman explains how the essence of cactus is transformed into Cadushy Liqueur. The Portuguese-made still is in the inset



Artist Nochi Coffie's art gets better and more imaginative with each exhibition



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SGB Students Repaint Waterlands Murals

The colorful murals that grace the wall outside Waterlands Village are receiving a fresh coat of paint after nearly four years of sun damage. The repainting process, which started last December, is expected to be complete later this month. "Everyone knows and recognizes the paintings," says Peter Gronewood, Manager of Waterlands Village. "The residents like them and so do the tourists and locals. They are an important part of our property."



Peter Gronewood, Manager of Waterlands Village, poses with SGB students.

In order to preserve the artwork, the original artists of each mural were invited back to repaint their piece. If one of the artists was not available, they were asked to name a friend or family member to come and paint in their place.



One of the original artists, Connie (kneeling, right), and two of her friends repaint Bonaire's colorful sea creatures.

Once the murals have a fresh coat of paint, Waterlands Village will be donating a DVD player and a TV to SGB as a thank you. "We will also be giving the artists a small gift as well," says Gronewood. "Repainting takes a lot of time, and we appreciate all the students and their hard work." ■

Story & photos by Malory Smith

Lilly's Ice Cream Shop



A great new ice cream/coffee and chocolate shop just opened on Kaya Gerharts, downtown, next to the Exito bakery. It's a Lilly's franchise operation which is very popular in The Netherlands. We tried six of the 36 flavors on opening night and found them delicious, a bit like Italian gelati, very different from the ice cream usually available on island.

The shop interior décor is modern, stylish and comfortable, the staff well-trained and helpful. There is free Wi-Fi Internet and air-conditioned seating inside and street side tables.

Lilly's is open Monday through Friday from 8 am-9 pm and Saturday from 11 am-9 pm. Phone 795-3747 if you want more information. ■ G.D.



Rijkdienst Caribisch Nederland

Elections Wednesday, March 2nd, 2011:

Changed electoral regulations!



Change of polling station of your own choice

For the upcoming Island Council elections some existing rules have changed. You may vote at a polling station of your own choice. You do not need to cast your vote at a predetermined polling station, but as of these elections you are allowed to vote where you choose to do so. To vote in the other polling station, there is no need to arrange for anything. You should just take your voting pass and your proof of identification with you.

You'll be voting too, right?

For more information:

www.rijksdienstcn.com/eilandsraadsverkiezingen



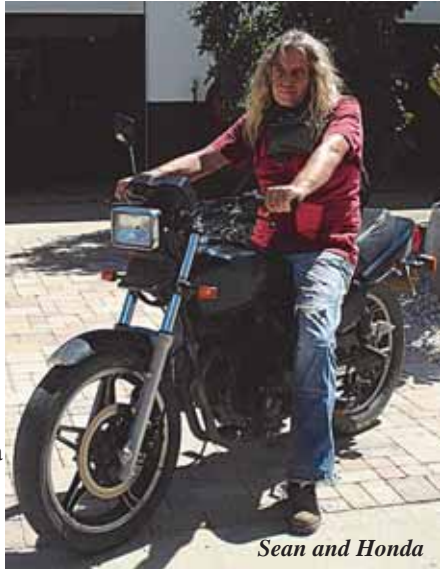
Sean Paton and His Reliable Big Four Stroke Thumper.

The 8th 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/ Lagoen Hill –
So way back in the last century Sean Paton and his motor fishing ship, *My Confidence*, sailed a couple of the seven oceans to finally end up in the Caribbean Sea. In the year 1999 he and his sailing ship landed on, in those days, the almost unspoiled tropical island of Bonaire. On deck of *My Confidence* a signal red sprayed Jeep CJ5 was tied down. The Jeep was sailed to Bonaire as cargo and she is still running around the island, recognizable by the front windshield placed in a horizontal position. *My Confidence*, a lovely and admirable vessel, powered by a very old fashioned two-stroke diesel, was less fortunate. She ended her working and traveling life in a seaman's grave, slightly north of the harbor entrance. Bit by bit her metal turns back into ore and is given back to nature...

Sean, born in England, was active for years in fishery protection, and on Bonaire he is actively involved in the problem of waste water management. Sean says, "I cannot change the world, but I will never walk away from it!" In his comfortable humble house at Lagoen Hill we have a long and interesting discussion about our beloved island, nature, the reefs, microbiology, nitrate concentration and collecting old batteries. Words like "knowledge" and "awareness" are popping up during the interesting talk that afternoon. According to me Sean is an admirable personality. And I am probably not the only person who has this opinion.

The bike. Sean has been the owner for years now of a flat black Honda single-cylinder motorcycle. The bike is a Honda FT500 Ascot, built in Japan in 1982. So the vehicle is almost 30 years old and still in good running condition and not dripping oil. Sean likes his bike. The machine is reliable, economical on fuel, has a high torque and more than sufficient horse power to cope with the everyday Bonairean traffic. Finding a location to park the bike is never a problem. The metal creature is built slim and has only two wheels. Then we walk around in the garden to a small shed. Another bike is parked next to the shed. It is another Honda. A 500cc single overhead camshaft Honda CBX. The original color of the bike and the frame is black. The lay-out is traditional. The FT500 and the CBX 500



Sean and Honda

have basically the same engines although the CBX is equipped with a dry sump system and tuned a little bit to produce some extra horse power. The CBX is under construction. The bike is easy to work on and parts are no problem. In fact Sean only needs two new sprockets and a new low maintenance o-ring chain. Sean believes the Honda unit singles are based on the old English BSA motorcycles, built in Birmingham, England. I am not quite sure about that. He might be right.

This brings back memories on both sides. I believe I owned some 25 British made bikes and Sean also remembers a lot of bikes he owned back in the 70s. Sean says, "My first bike was a BSA Bantam. It was an ex-military bike. It was equipped with a simple and reliable 175 cc single-cylinder, two-stroke engine. (The Bantam was copied, after World War II, from the German DKW motorcycle./jb) And there was an Ariel Arrow. Two stroke and fast. And I had a BSA B33, a 500 cc single thumper. And this bike reminds me of the 500 cc Ariel side-valve machine, a very low revving, high torque engine: Bang, bang, bang. A bang at every light pole. Another motorcycle I owned, way back in time, in the very old world of England was a BSA A10 Super Road Rocket. This all metal bike was equipped with a tuned twin engine, 650 cc, two carburetors and was fast like lightning! I still remember the decal of a futuristic rocket on top of the petrol tank!"

Sean's Honda FT500 was built in 1982.



BSA Super Rocket

It has a single-cylinder, four-stroke engine with four overhead valves and a displacement of 497 cc/30.33 cubic inches. Compression is 8.6:1 and top speed is 147 km/h. There is an integral five-speed gearbox. The frame is traditional and front and rear wheel have single disc brakes.

The other bike, the one that is under construction, creates a mystery for me. As far

as I know a Honda CBX is a six cylinder. So there are five pistons missing. Now I am quite insecure because the side cap under the seat reads: "CBX"! Weird! I think this bike is a Honda XBR 500, built in the mid 80s. It is more or less similar to Sean's well running flat black Honda FT 500 but the bike has a dry sump system and a separate tank for the engine oil. It is fitted with so called comstar wheels and light alloy brackets for the rear foot rests.

I have to visit Sean again and I have to do more research. This keeps me occupied... ■
Story & photos by J@n Brouwer



Picture Yourself With The Reporter In... Long Beach, California, USA



Angel Martinez sent this great photo to *The Reporter* and wrote, "Here's a picture where I spent a two-week vacation in Long Beach, California. In the background you can see the Long Beach Arena behind the park. I've been living in Bonaire for about 11 years and I always wanted to take a picture and send it the paper."

We plan to announce the 2010 Picture Yourself winner in the next edition.

WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES. Mail photos to *Bonaire Reporter*, Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: info@bonairereporter.com.

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4 3014045.

MISCELLANEOUS

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**New Habitat Units Dedicated
To Albert E. J. Romijn**



Esther Romijn cuts the ribbon held by Governor Glenn Thode and Habitat CEO Henry van der Quast. Looking on are Commissioner Elvis Tjin Asjoe and Christopher Romijn

Captain Don's Habitat set a new stan-
dard for luxury hotel rooms with the
opening of 12 new Deluxe Ocean Front Jr.
Suites last month. The units will be dedi-
cated to Albert E. J. Romijn, the beloved

former manager of the resort who passed
away after a lingering illness. Albert was a
fun and party guy and Habitat management
pulled out all the stops for a great ribbon-
cutting dedication and party. ■ G.D.

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 11	First Quar- ter	00:20 - 0.01 ft	07:12 0.84 ft	15:38 - 0.06 ft	19:33 0.13 ft	6:58	18:41
Sat 12		00:45 - 0.04 ft	07:47 0.91 ft	16:21 - 0.09 ft	20:10 0.09 ft	6:58	18:41
Sun 13		01:16 - 0.07 ft	08:24 0.95 ft	17:03 - 0.11 ft	20:52 0.07 ft	6:58	18:41
Mon 14		01:54 - 0.08 ft	09:04 0.97 ft	17:44 - 0.12 ft	21:40 0.08 ft	6:57	18:42
Tue 15		02:39 - 0.07 ft	09:47 0.96 ft	18:24 - 0.13 ft	22:38 0.11 ft	6:57	18:42
Wed 16		03:35 - 0.04 ft	10:35 0.91 ft	19:03 - 0.13 ft	23:43 0.18 ft	6:57	18:42
Thu 17		04:47 0.01 ft	11:27 0.82 ft	19:42 - 0.13 ft		6:56	18:42
Fri 18	00:51 0.28 ft	06:19 0.07 ft	12:26 0.71 ft	20:20 - 0.12 ft	Full Moon	6:56	18:43
Sat 19	01:55 0.41 ft	08:04 0.08 ft	13:33 0.58 ft	21:01 - 0.12 ft		6:55	18:43
Sun 20	02:53 0.56 ft	09:45 0.04 ft	14:46 0.47 ft	21:43 - 0.11 ft		6:55	18:43
Mon 21	03:48 0.71 ft	11:12 - 0.05 ft	16:00 0.38 ft	22:27 - 0.11 ft		6:55	18:43
Tue 22	04:39 0.84 ft	12:25 - 0.14 ft	17:11 0.31 ft	23:12 - 0.10 ft		6:54	18:43
Wed 23	05:30 0.94 ft	13:27 - 0.22 ft	18:14 0.27 ft	23:58 - 0.10 ft		6:54	18:44
Thu 24	06:19 1.00 ft	14:24 - 0.26 ft	19:12 0.24 ft		L Quarter	6:53	18:44
Fri 25		00:44 - 0.09 ft	07:08 1.02 ft	15:18 - 0.27 ft	20:06 0.21 ft	6:53	18:44

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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.

BAKERY & CAFÉ

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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

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

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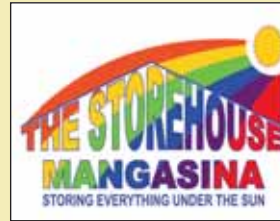
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Sunfish Worlds Sailors Selected



The Bonaire Sailing School Association (BSSA) selected the sailors who will represent Bonaire in the upcoming 2011 Sunfish World Championships in Curaçao.

The qualifying races for young sailors were on Saturday the 29th and Sunday the 30th of January, beginning with a race from the Kas di Regatta in Kralendijk to Sorobon on the first day, as well as a second race held the next day in Sorobon. Ton Nuijten, Chairman of the BSSA, emphasized that the weekend was not just about the races, but also about having fun. Young competitors and other members of the BSSA enjoyed a BBQ in Sorobon as well as an overnight campout before the final qualifying race on Sunday.

After sailing in two qualifying races, the young Sunfish sailors who will be competing in the championship are: Juan Alvarez (18) who placed 1st, Santiago Alvarez (15) who placed 2nd, Ruben van Eldik (14) who placed 3rd and Shair Theodora (16) who placed 4th.

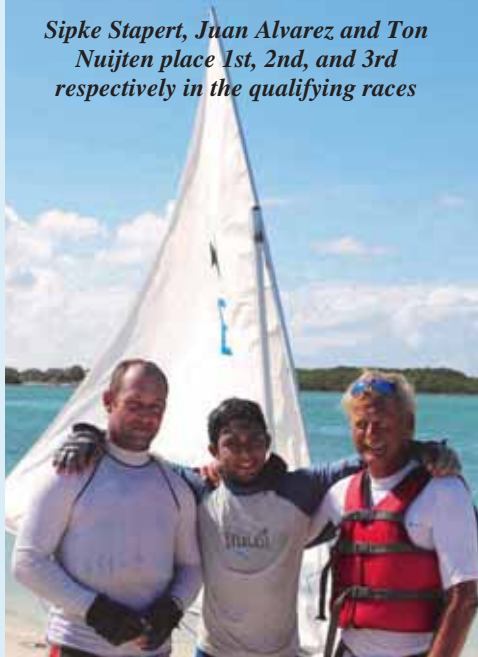
The adults who will compete in the 2011 Sunfish World Championship were chosen by the BSSA prior to the qualifying races for the youth group. The adults who will be competing on behalf of Bonaire are: Sipke Stapert, who placed 1st, Ton Nuijten who placed 2nd and George Soliano (Cabes) who placed 3rd. All of the adult competitors joined the youth competitors in the qualifying races for fun and for a little practice.

The championships, which will be held in Curaçao this June, is welcome news to the BSSA and its members, who were not able to attend last year when the championships were held in Italy. "Going to Curaçao will be less expensive, and the conditions for sailing are more or less the same as they are here in Bonaire," says Nuijten.

Now that the BSSA has determined who will be competing, they are now planning their accommodations for the championships. "The government has agreed to pay our entry fees, which is nearly \$4,000, but now we are hoping to get some help from local sponsors so that we can pay the hotel fees," says Agnes van Eldik, a BSSA board member.

Over the next few months, all of the Sunfish sailors will be practicing in preparation for the championship races in Curaçao. ■

Story & photos by Mallory Smith



Sipke Stapert, Juan Alvarez and Ton Nuijten place 1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively in the qualifying races

BON DOET Searches for Volunteers

On Wednesday, January 26th, members of the local community and representatives from many of Bonaire's non-profit organizations gathered at the NGO Platform office for an informational happy hour held by BON DOET. For those who are unfamiliar with the initiative, BON DOET is Bonaire's version of the Netherlands NL DOET, an annual volunteer project that helps non-profit organizations complete a task with assistance from volunteers.

Since publicizing the goal of BON DOET in early December, the project has already generated a lot of interest from local NGOs. At the moment, the organization has put together 34 different tasks that local organizations need completed. The tasks range in size and activity, from cleaning up the beach, to helping repair a slide at a children's playground.

Now that BON DOET has its tasks laid out, they are actively searching for volunteers who will agree to help one or more of the organizations involved. All of the tasks will be held on Friday, the 18th and Saturday, the 19th of March and will take place all over the island.

Annemarie Klöne, coordinator of the NGO Platform, says that volunteering for a task is a great way to get involved with a local organization and see the outcome of your work. "What I like is that you help for one day and you see a result. I think that's something that will motivate a lot of people."

"For each task you can sign up individually or with a group of friends. It is also a good team building activity for companies," says Klöne "It's a great group activity and it's a chance for the company to show community involvement."

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer you can sign up for a task online through BON DOET's website. Currently the site is only in Papiamentu, but volunteers can also get information in English and Dutch in person at the NGO Platform



Members of the NGO Platform and BON DOET. From left right: Annemarie Klöne, Gianni van den Heuvel, Nina Gougon and Roosje van der Hoek.



Pastor Selassa (right) and a young volunteer are first to sign up for a BON DOET task.

office or by phone. See details below for contact information and how to get involved with BON DOET. ■ Story & photos by Mallory Smith



Volunteer Information:

Website: www.nldoet.nl/bonaire
 NGO Platform Office
 Kaya Grandi 52C (across from Boomerang Hardware)
 Kralendijk, Bonaire. Tel: 717-2366 ,

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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	Feb-11	Sea Princess	0800	1800	2016	Princess
		Noordam	0800	1700	1918	HAL
Mon	Feb-14	Aida Vita	0800	1600	1260	Aida
		Ventura	0800	1800	3100	P & O
Thu	Feb-17	Caribbean Princess	1100	2000	3100	Princess
Fri	Feb-18	Grandeur of the Seas	0700	1600	2446	Celebrity
Fri	Feb-25	Sea Princess	0800	1800	2016	Princess
Mon	Feb-28	Aida Vita	0800	1600	1260	Aida
2 ships		Ventura	0800	1800	3100	P & O
Thu	Mar-03	Caribbean Princess	1100	2000	3100	Princess
Sun-Tues	Thru Spring 2011	Freewinds	0630	2200	150	Scintology

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Karnaval Schedule is on page 20

Saturday, February 12—BSSA Carwash fund raiser, Kas di Regatta, 9 am—noon, \$6

Wednesday, February 16—Three Baritones. Presented by the Classical Music Board Bonaire, 7:30 pm, on the beach at Plaza. (see pg. 6)

Thursday, February 17—Master Class by performing baritones (see page 8)

February 20—Kaminda di Arte (Art Trail) 11 am 5 pm, visit artists in their homes and studios. More on page 20

Saturday, February 27 - Farmers' Market, 8 am-2 pm. Behind Go Green Natural Shop. (See page 10)

Wednesday, March 2—First local elections on Bonaire the municipality.

March 5 and 6.- Karnaval Grand Marches (see schedule on pg. 20)

March 18 & 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. (see story on pg. 15)

Saturday, April 3—9th Annual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon. Start training now! More information in upcoming issues.

REGULAR EVENTS

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

• **We Dare to Care Park children's playground** open every day into the cooler evening hours.

Saturdays

• **Rincon Marshé—8am-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 Koeke 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

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

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

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

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

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060/ 790-2018

Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868
Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on December 25th. and January 1st. Call 788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681

CLUBS and MEETINGS

AA meetings - every Wednesday at 7pm. Phone: 786-4651 or 786-7971

Al-Anon meetings - every Monday evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:15 pm— All levels, NAf2,50, call Renata at 796-5591 to find out the evening's location.

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

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

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

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya

Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

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

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

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

International Bible Church of Bonaire, at SGB High School auditorium (Kaya Frater Odulfinuz, 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, Republik. 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 /6518

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Body Talk

WHAT WENT WRONG?

We have come a long way in a hundred years. Half of us are dying from heart disease and strokes, conditions that were not even recognized a century ago!

The first reported heart attack occurred in 1896. The condition did not even have a name! Several years later the first write-up on heart attacks appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine. The article was devoted to this curious new, but very rare condition that it named "myocardial infarct."

"Imagine that," the authors were saying, "we have seen several patients suffer ischemic damage to the heart, and several have actually died." They were studying a previously unheard of disease and really did not know what to make of it.

Paul Dudley White, M.D., a famous heart specialist in the mid 20th century said, "When I graduated from medical school in 1911, I had never heard of coronary thrombosis."

So what went wrong? Is it the eating of too much cholesterol and saturated fat? Is it too much "stress" in our lives? The common wisdom of our day would have us believe that these are prime culprits, but really these are relatively insignificant factors.

Studies have shown that cholesterol and saturated fat intake have not increased but have actually decreased in the last 100 years! And what about stress? 100 years ago many people had to work like slaves just to provide themselves with minimal food, clothing, shelter and sanitation. Our standard of living has increased so dramatically this century that nothing we face, remotely resembles the real stress that our ancestors faced. Most of what we call 'stress' would more accurately be described as stress deprivation. Most people simply do not have enough constructive, challenging, satisfying work to occupy their time!

There are six changes that have occurred in most of the 'civilized' world in the last 100 years that are direct causative factors in the high rate of cardiovascular disease.

They are –

- The chlorination and fluoridation of our drinking water
- The demineralization of our drinking water
- The dramatic increase in consumption of sugar and chemical sugar alternatives
- The increased consumption of polyunsaturated and hydrogenated oils (soy, canola and vegetable oils and margarines)
- The homogenization of milk
- The trace mineral depletion of our soil and therefore our food.

As a result of all this, more and more people have health problems, take more and more medications, and guess what – even our children have these same problems! Do you honestly know ANYBODY who is not on at least one medication for something? Let me also add, that to qualify, that person must be healthy and not just refusing to do anything about his/her problems. And then it does not stop at one medication, oh no, I have seen individuals with an average of four different medications, and as many as 11! Of course, the other side of the coin is that many people are quite proud of these medications!

The sad news is that in the end it is most likely that your body will give up the struggle BECAUSE OF THE MEDICATION! In the next issue we will look at various medications and exactly what effect they have on your biological make-up. ■
Stephanie Bennett



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

23rd International & Local Fishing Tournament

Thursday, January 27th kicked off the start of Bonaire's 23rd International & Local Fishing Tournament at the Bonaire Nautico Marina. This year, the tournament featured over 15 sponsors and 17 boats competing, with 10 boats coming from Curaçao, six from Bonaire and one from Aruba.

BOAT	ANGLER	G-IBS	FISH	LAND	BOAT	ANGLER	G-IBS	FISH	LAND
MEAL TICKET	SILBERI	LOST	WAHOO	BONAIRE	PISCATUR	GUY BRAUN	LOST	SHRIMP	BONAIRE
MAKUAKA	B.FONDRIANO	LOST	BLUE	BONAIRE	DRIFTWOOD	A.PINZON	RELEASED	BLUE	ARUBA
ZIPPER	A.WEVER	RELEASED	BLUE	CURAÇAO	MARLA	J.SCHUER	LOST	BLUE	ARUBA
DRIFTWOOD	A.PINZON	114 KG	ELINA	ARUBA	JUSTUS	L.LUBBE	15 KG	TUNA	CURAÇAO
PISCATUR	E.HINDS	LOST	WAHOO	BONAIRE	CHACARO	HOLLANDER	LOST	WAHOO	CURAÇAO
MEAL TICKET	H.J.JONAH	7 1/2 KG	WAHOO	BONAIRE	A.FISHONADO	E.FERDINS	12 KG	DRADU	CURAÇAO
MEAL TICKET	H.J.JONAH	12 KG	WAHOO	BONAIRE	SENEMILLA	L.ANANTER	LOST	BLUE	CURAÇAO
PISCATUR	F.HILYERS	11 KG	WAHOO	BONAIRE	TIMEOUT	B.WOOMAN	LOST	UNKNOWN	BONAIRE
SENEMILLA	B.BONHEVEL	N.Q.	WAHOO	CURAÇAO	LANGARD	BLUE	RELEASED	LOST	UNKNOWN
MAKUAKA	MATHIEU	N.Q.	DRADU	BONAIRE					
JUSTUS	L.V.LUBBE	LOST	BLUE	CURAÇAO					
DRIFTWOOD	A.PINZON	RELEASED	BLUE	ARUBA					
MAKUAKA	I.BRAKEL	14 1/2 KG	WAHOO	BONAIRE					
MAKUAKA	J.BAAN	11 KG	WAHOO	BONAIRE					

Participants spent two full days fishing, all hoping to catch the most coveted fish of all- the blue marlin - along with other fish such as tuna, wahoo and dorado. The tournament boasted big prizes, featuring a grand prize of a new Toyota pickup for any fisherman who could beat the Antillean blue marlin record (803 lbs.) and cash prizes of \$5,000, \$3,500 and \$2,000 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for the biggest blue marlins caught.

Unfortunately, this year proved to be somewhat of a disappointing year for the fishermen, as only three blue marlin were caught, all of which were under the 300 lb. limit and according to tournament rules, had to be released.

Captain Justus van der Lubbe of Curaçao caught the biggest yellow fin tuna on the second day of the tournament, with the fish weighing in around 15 kg. His two team mates, Jens van der Lubbe and Willem Evertsz, enjoyed the tournament, but felt that last year was much more successful. "There were some fish around but no one was able to catch them.

There were only three fish released in two days of fishing. Both days were pretty slow," said Jens van der Lubbe. Willem Evertsz, who won 1st place last year for the biggest blue marlin agreed. "Last year there were 21 fish caught. This year it was really bad. We only caught the tuna today."

Mr. A. Pinazon of Aruba, seemed to be one of the most successful fishermen of the weekend, and was the winner of the 1st place cash prize, catching two out of the three blue marlins as well as catching a tuna that weighed in at 114 kg. Mr. A. Wever of Curaçao caught the third blue marlin and was awarded 2nd place. No one came in 3rd place. The tournament concluded with an awards presentation and a BBQ next to It Rains Fishes restaurant.

Due to the lack of boats, the tournament ended up losing

money this year. "I was not very pleased with the outcome," says Robur de Vries, the organizer of the tournament. Part of the reason why there were fewer boats this year was due to a boycott from Aruba, who held their own fishing tournament on the very same weekend. "Because of the boycott we lost about nine boats," says de Vries, adding that, "in past years we made money and this year we lost money. Now we are discussing if we will even have the tournament next year. If we do hold it again, we hope to get more boats."

Despite the low turnout this year, de Vries did admit that he was satisfied with how the tournament was run this year. "I thought the tournament was very well organized, so in that respect I am happy." ■
Story & photo by Mallory Smith

Sudoku Solution

Puzzle on page 7

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

Bon Quiz (from page 7)

BonQuiz Answer

Rochaline

Q) What is the family name?

A) Beukeboom

Q) And what are the names that Rochaline is made up of?

Robbie- the only son,
Charles- their father, and Charlotte, the youngest daughter
Line- Angelina, the mother and Anneline the oldest daughter, and E- Elsmarie

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Pet of the Week

The following is written by cat queen, Jane Disko Madden, because she really knows these cats, inside and out!

“The expression, ‘opposites attract,’ doesn’t mean anything to these two lovely white cats! Little Carla, about eight weeks old, with one green eye and one blue eye, immediately bonded with an older Shelter resident who is just as white as she is. Yves, is a big strong boy, 10 pounds plus, with knowing amber eyes and a gentle, loving personality. Carla is a little tomboy (she was raised with two brothers) and can hold her own with kittens even twice her size. Yves, being a mature three year old, prefers to just lie around in his basket until someone comes along to pick him up. He’ll wrap himself around you and settle in for some serious cuddling.”

According to Chairman of the Shelter



“Yves” and “Carla”

Board, Paul Wichers, “The result of the Shelter’s Book & Flea Market last Saturday was \$ 2,621.96 in sales and \$158.62 donations. That is about the same as February last year, our first market at the Shelter. An amazing result. We haven’t been working for nothing today,” he says! ■ Laura DeSalvo

Lora Count Lower



Lora count volunteers

It was hard to get an accurate count of Bonaire’s Loras (Bonaire parrot) this year because the extensive rainy season caused the birds to be scattered over the island.

During the annual Lora count (*loratelling*) last Saturday, about 550 loras were counted. This is much fewer than the 800 Loras counted last year. Fundashon Salba Nos Lora (The Save the Lora Foundation) thinks this is because the Lora are scattered about the island.

More than 30 volunteers, organized by the Fundashon Salba Nos Lora and the Department of Environment and Nature (DROB), counted loras at 15 places in the center and north of Bonaire. The staff of Bonaire STINAPA counted the Lora’s 10 different locations in the Washington - Slagbaai Park. Again the SGB High School took part. At nine locations no Lora were seen. This did not dampen the enthusiasm among the volunteers. It is a unique experience to be in a beautiful place in nature’s wilderness

to see and hear the birds’ awakening.

“That the 16 Lora count would be a difficult one, was predicted,” said Anthony Hensley and Jan Jaap van Almenkerk of Salba Nos Lora. “The Loras have been in the built up areas this year as well as in the *Mondi* (wild areas). The wet rainy season and the food supply in the *Mondi* are important factors. If nature provides insufficient food, the birds search for food in residential areas.

The trees and shrubs in the *mondi* can’t provide proper food because of the constant grazing by donkeys and goats which decimate the desirable food plants and trees. To help improve the variety, Fundashon Salba Nos Lora in recent years has planted indigenous fruit-bearing trees and shrubs in nature like *kalbas*, *oliba*, *watakeli* and *wayaká*.”

The count ended with a breakfast for the volunteers at the entrance of Washington - Salgbaai Park provided by STINAPA Bonaire. ■ *Salba Nos Lora press release/ G.D.*

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*to find it... just look up

The Orion Family

In this issue we're going to focus on a group of winter constellations around **Orion, the mighty hunter.**

Often called the Orion family, these constellations have some of the brightest stars and most easily recognized star formations in the sky. Now the ancients watched the sky the same way we watch TV. Get this, when they tuned into the winter stars they saw a giant hunter with three stars for a belt being trampled by a bull with seven women on its back while two hunting dogs were chasing after a unicorn and bunny rabbit down by the river. Say what? All right, let me walk you through it.

Around 9 pm look south. The constellation Orion takes center stage with his seven bright stars. The Arabs called him, "the great central one," and he'll play the central role in our winter sky saga. The two brightest stars in Orion make a nice contrast. Bright blue **Rigel** marks Orion's left knee while ruby red **Betelgeuse** shines in his armpit. The colors of the stars are an indicator of their temperature. A blue star like Rigel is hot - about 11,000 degrees Celsius on its surface, while a red star like Betelgeuse is much cooler - about 3000 degree Celsius.

Most of the stars in Orion are blue including his trademark belt. Not only are the belt stars your cue that you've found Orion, they'll point the way to several other constellations in the sky. If you follow a line from the belt stars and continue up and to the right you'll pass just under a bright red star called **Aldebaran**. Look out because this is the menacing eye of **Taurus the bull**. Taurus has a small "V" shape of five stars for a face and two long horns. Now if you continue past the "V" of Taurus you will come to the best and brightest open star cluster in the northern sky. These are the **Pleiades** or the **Seven Sisters**. The Pleiades look like a little cloud of stars to the naked eye but upon second glance you might be able to make out five or six of the sisters. In a



good pair of binoculars they are just awesome. Formed from the same **nebula** the sisters are young hot stars burning the candle at both ends. These stars are so hot that they may only live millions of years as opposed to our **Sun** which has a lifespan of about 10 billion years. The cluster includes hundreds of stars, with only the seven brightest visible to the ancients.

In Greek mythology, Orion fell in love with the sisters - all seven of them. The sisters hardly felt the same and fled into the night sky and now have a protector from Orion in the form of Taurus the bull. So the sisters are sitting pretty on the bull's back while Orion must fend off the charging beast. When Orion asked the gods for help with the bull they let him call up his two hunting dogs. This time let the belt stars point you down and to the left and take you to the brightest star in the sky, **Sirius**. Sirius, a.k.a. the **dog star**, is the nose of **Canis Major**, the big dog. From Sirius look up and you'll find the little dog star, **Procyon in Canis Minor**. Aww, what a cute little puppy. Procyon along with Sirius and Betelgeuse make a nice triangle of bright stars. Unfortunately the two dogs aren't helping with the bull. They're too busy chasing after a unicorn (the **constellation Monoceros**) and a hare (the **constellation Lepus**) by the banks of the river in the sky.

This is the Orion family of constellations and they're the same stars our ancestors have marveled at for thousands of years. ■ *Dean Regas, Cincinnati Obs.*



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
February 2011 Horoscope

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You need a change and you need to earn more cash. You must not let fellow workers take advantage of your fine talents. You will be tempted to shop till you drop. Don't allow your lover to take advantage of your good nature. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Problems with in-laws or relatives may be more damaging than you realize. Get help to finish a project if you need it. Don't overspend on items for your home. Home improvement projects will run smoothly. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You may have a problem with coworkers if you try to tell them what to do. You can expect changes in your financial situation as well as in your status. Be prepared to neutralize any threats. Focus on your own domestic problems. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Financial gains can be made through wise investments. You need to get down to basics with regard to yourself. Don't give out any personal information that you don't want spread around. You should be doing something special with children. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Secret affairs will only lead to deception. Take whatever time you can to get to know each other all over again. Don't be too eager to spend money that you really don't have. You may find your nights sleepless due to bad dreams. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You can change your living arrangements. Problems with peers is apparent. Difficulties with female members of your family may result in estrangement's. Do not get involved in joint financial ventures. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Do not let them in on your plans if you want things to run smoothly. Your colorful conversation may attract new mates. Your mate will be pushing you to do things that you really don't want to do. Consider a trial separation if you and your mate just can't come to terms. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Let them know what your intentions are. You will probably have to defend your mate. Lovers may prove unworthy of your affection. Your best efforts will come through hard work. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Outbursts of passion may cause arguments with your mate. You will be able to talk to your lover about future goals and perhaps make plans for the two of you to take a vacation. Don't exhaust yourself or minor health problems will set in. Don't overindulge in anyway. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) This day was meant for love. Make creative changes to your residence. Romantic opportunities will be plentiful if you go out with friends. You may be admired by colleagues and employers for your diplomatic way of handling your work and those you work with. Keep the promises you've made or you can expect to be in the doghouse. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Don't be shy; show your abilities! Sign up for seminars that will expand your business awareness. Property investments, insurance, tax rebates, or inheritance should bring you financial gains. You need to start planning that vacation. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Joint ventures might prove to be unfavorable. Don't let your partner goad you into wearing your heart on your sleeve. New relationships will surface through work related events. Try not to push your philosophies on others. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

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Appointment by tel: **717-5990** or just walk in.

Downtown, near the waterfront next to Little Havana
Tues-Fri: 9-12, 2-6 Sat: 9-2 non stop

Bonaire Box Jellyfish Named



Ned Deloach photo

The new species of cubozoan (box-like) jellyfish discovered in the shallow waters of Bonaire a few years ago has been given a scientific name. Thus far, approximately 50 sightings of the species, known commonly as the Bonaire banded box jelly, are recorded, and three specimens have been collected. Three physical encounters between humans and the species have been reported. Available evidence suggests that a serious sting is inflicted by this creature.

The Bonaire banded box jelly has been named *Tamoya ohboya*, n. sp., can be distinguished from its close relatives by differences in tentacle coloration, cnidome, and mitochondrial gene sequences. *Tamoya ohboya* possesses striking dark brown to reddish-orange banded tentacles, nematocyst warts that densely cover the animal, and a deep stomach.

Three specimens of the Bonaire banded box jelly have been captured, collected, and deposited at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. The first specimen to be examined was captured by Johan van Blerk near the water surface off Klein Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, on 29 July 2008. More complete information can be found at <http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/2011/f/zt02753p068.pdf>. ■

Thanks to Brad Swanson for calling this article to our attention. -G.D



Marijke Wilhelmus photo



Karnaval Program 2011 Programa Karnaval 2011



Contestants in the Infant Karnaval Queen competition: 1-Shamy-leyn Piard, 2-Marialouisa Troncoon, 3-Tishainy Melaan (not pictured), 4-Shairiandy Melaan, 5-Irlenska Martinus and 6-Monixarantxa Margarita

20 feb.	16.00or-19.00or	Festival di Tumba Hubenil	Stadion di Playa
22 feb.	20.00or-00.00or	Jump-up Amboina Happy Center	Amboina
23 feb.	19.00or-00.00or	Jump - In	Playa
24 feb.	19.00or-00.00or	Ban topa Reina Prens i Pancho	Parke Wihselmina
25 feb.	17.00or-20.00or 20.00or-00.00or	Parada di Blas Sebiki Elekshon Reina Prens i Pancho grandi	Stadion Aula SGB
26 feb.	15.00or	Marcha Hubenil Rincon	Rincon
27 feb.	15.00or	Marcha Hubenil	Stadion Playa
1 maart	19.00or-00.00or	Teenersparade	Stadion Playa
3 maart	20.00or-00.00or	Jump-Up Rincon	Entrada di Rincon
4 maart	09.00or-13.00or 20.00or-03.00or	Marcha Skol Playa Jump In "Ban topa Karnaval" (Sporthall)	Stadion Sporthall
5 maart	15.00or	Parada Grandi Rincon	Stadion Rincon
6 maart	13.00or	Gran Parada	Kaya Kirona (SGB)
7 maart	18.00or-22.00or	Marcha di Despedida Hubenil	Stadion Playa
8 maart	19.00or-00.30or	Despedida / Kimamentu di Rei Momo	Stadion Playa
20 maart	20.00or-00.00or	Entrega di Premio	

Robert Sanchez Presidente Fundashon Karnaval Bonaire

ART EXHIBITS

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

Kaminda di Arte (Art Trail) February 20 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



Linda Richter-Fine Art

Call For Appointment

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

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

JanArt Gallery, Kaya Gloria 7, 717-5246

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

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



Last week the Bonaire Sailing School's Boston Whaler was stolen from its mooring in front of Regatta House

This is really a disaster, because he boat was used by Ton the instructor to give sailing lessons.

If somebody can give some information about the sailing school's boat please contact *The Reporter* or the sailing school!

Reporter-790-8988, 790-6518. 786-6518
Email: reporter@bonairenews.com

Or the Sailing Association
email: agnes-ap@hotmail.com