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FREE**

BONAIRE Feb. 25-Mar. 11, 2011 Year 18, Issue 5
The REPORTER
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Eco Dive

Around Klein Bonaire Underwater

Page 11

Photo by Suzsanna Puztai (Bon Photo Bonaire)

Flotsam and Jetsam

BONAIRE The REPORTER

If you did not receive your voting card by mail go to window 1 at the Civil Registry (*Bevolking*). Bring your *sedula* for verification of your ID. You do NOT have to take a number. Just go to window 1.



ment and the SVB of the BES islands, in which the Court will be asked to order these two entities to raise the level of the AOV (Retirement Pension) to the level of the Dutch state pension (the increase being about 150%) within a period of five years.



►THE HAGUE—Nature parks in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba need Dutch financial assistance to cover operational costs. St. Eustatius especially is in dire straits, Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance DCNA Executive Director Kalli de Meyer told the Dutch Second Chamber last week.

The nature foundations need about €200,000 each to cover the annual operational cost. That is a small amount for The Netherlands, but impossible to come up with this kind of money, said De Meyer.

►THE HAGUE--Member of the Dutch Parliament Wassila Hachchi of the democratic D66 party wants to know why there are problems with delivering mail in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. Mail problems in Bonaire? No stamps? No postal code? Really?



►The Dutch Royal Navy's new station ship for the Dutch Caribbean, *Hr. Ms. Rotterdam*, arrived in Curaçao's harbor with the necessary ceremonial activity and exchange of official salutes last week. The amphibious transport vessel is equipped with a Westland Lynx helicopter and three inshore

boats. The ship can quickly land relief personnel and take on evacuees in case of a natural disaster on one of the six islands. It also has a drinking water producing facility



►Bonaire notary Maarten Maartense gave a \$1,000 donation to Fundashon FORMA which works on educating people to higher levels of competence. Research has shown that 24% of the island's population can't read or write well enough to be able to go through life completely on their own. The money is intended for a special course where such people can be taught to get their driver's license, the theoretical part of which sometimes contains complicated sentences. This would help many of them find work. In the photo Marie Craane of FORMA accepts the gift from Martin.

►The website of the Kingdom Services Department for the Dutch Caribbean (*Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland* (RCN)) www.RijksdienstCN.com is now available in three languages: Dutch, Papiamentu and English.

Through the website RCN offers the residents of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba the opportunity to gain information about the Dutch government and the various policy areas, it said in a statement to the media.

The website has information about the tasks carried out in the Dutch Caribbean by the Dutch government and changes that are taking place in the interest of island residents.

The website has information regarding the various depart-

ments, RCN vacancies, public events and news releases.

People can also call the toll-free information line 08008 101010, which is available on weekdays from 1:30 to 5 pm. RCN also has its own Facebook page.

►There's a new name for the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba Coastguard, says the Dutch Ministry of Defense. The new official name: Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard. A name change was inevitable, because the Netherlands Antilles were dissolved last year

►One of the consequences of the new status of the islands as special Dutch entities is the separation of churches and the local governments. This has resulted in an end of government subsidies for churches. Member of Parliament Cynthia Ortega-Martijn explained that churches on the islands were not familiar with the principle of voluntary contribution. The MP wants the minister to draft a transitional arrangement for the churches so they have time to look for alternative sources of income. There was also a similar arrangement in the 1980s for churches in The Netherlands when the financial separation between church and state was put in place.

►Bonaire's Commissioner of Economic Affairs and Tourism Elvis Tjin Asjoe will strive for more cruise ship visitors, or at least maintain the number since many local businesses benefit from them. According to the TCB the island currently gets about 230,000 cruise ship visitors annually.

The commissioner wants to continue the cooperation agreements made between the ABC islands in this area during a tripartite consultation on Aruba. Bonaire will participate in the

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March 2 -Wednesday- Local Elections



Bonaire's first local election for Island Council seats since Bonaire was established as a special Dutch municipality is set for Wednesday, March 2. It will be conducted under different rules than previously (see bottom of page 11) and legal resident foreigners can vote –the first for an island election.

In addition to the two parties of long standing, the **PDB Demokrat (red)** and **UPB Patriotiko (green)**, three new parties are on the ballot.

The Reporter's view of the political parties vying for seats is presented below without endorsement. Readers are encouraged to learn as much as possible about the platforms of the parties so they can make an informed choice. Essentially voters choose a single candidate from the almost 80 names. Seats are apportioned according to the number of votes cast for the party. The top vote getters do not necessarily get the party's seats on the Island Council. The Island Council chooses the members of the Island Government.

UPB Patriotiko Head: Ramonsito Booi	PDB Demokrat Head: Robby Beukenboom	PHU-Unity and Justice Head: Michiel Bijkerk	MLB Head: Eric Soliana	MBL Head: Benito Dirksz
<p>The UPB is the party currently with a majority on the Island Council supported by an independent, Anthony Nicolas, who is not a candidate.</p> <p>The party's colors are green, but that is traditional, not necessarily meaning special support for the environment.</p> <p>One of their most popular candidates recently publicly announced support for keeping Sunset Beach/Play Lechi reserved for local businesses.</p> <p>The UPB, in our opinion, is the party most responsible for the details of the current state structure of Bonaire-a special municipality of The Netherlands.</p> <p>Their pre-election statements support details of the current arrangement, like the present pension payments.</p> <p>The party's list of 30 candidates has persons experienced in past governments. The party promotes economic growth.</p>	<p>The charismatic Demokrat leader, Jopie Abraham, recently retired, putting leadership of the party into the experienced hands of veteran councilmember Robby Beukenboom.</p> <p>It will be his first election test as party leader. The Demokrats were briefly in power during the transition to integration with Holland. They essentially froze the process until they capitulated under financial pressure from The Netherlands.</p> <p>The Reporter believes the Demokrats (red party color but they are not communist) are the most interested in preserving the old ways of Bonaire. During their time in power in the 1990s Bonaire's economic growth stagnated but the island's natural environment benefited.</p> <p>Beukenboom leads a list of 18 names with both experienced lawmakers and 11 list first-timers.</p>	<p>This new party is using a campaign model new to Bonaire, more like the approach Obama used to get elected in the US. The PHU is using the email, social media as well as newspapers and radio to reach the voters.</p> <p>Led by past political activist lawyer Michiel Bijkerk the PHU party is appealing to Bonaireans and island minorities for their votes with several naturalized citizens on their party's list. The PHU recently won a lawsuit to allow foreigners who are legal residents to vote in the upcoming election and are pushing another suit to get Bonaire pensioners on a par with The Netherlands- an action supported by all major parties except the UPB.</p> <p>The PHU seems to know how to get the Dutch to react- litigate.</p> <p>Except for Bijkerk, the party has relative unknowns on its election list, perhaps a weakness.</p>	<p>One new party, "Movimentu Lucha Boneiru" (Bonaire Light Movement) –MLB, is headed by Eric Soleana. According to Wernet, it is not really a political party, but a group of a dozen people who want change "with space for new thoughts and a new system."</p> <p>Their stated objective is to defend and promote the interests of those not happy with the direction Bonaire is taking. They advocate a return to fundamental Christian ideals and traditional Bonairean values in education. They will push for healthy activities for youngsters and fair treatment of the elderly. They will support the rights of immigrants and want the island to move in a direction to recover its dignity and autonomy.</p> <p>Most interestingly, they want to make real the decision that the majority of Bonaireans expressed in the last Referendum. We are not sure if that includes those who voted NO or those who boycotted the vote.</p>	<p>The Movimentu Boneiru Liber (MBL) - Bonaire Free Movement is led by hard-line crime fighter Benito Dirksz. Some members of this new "blue" party were in favor of the Referendum to ask Bonaireans to assess their satisfaction with the arrangements negotiated with The Netherlands. That effort was blocked.</p> <p>If MBL gets on the Island Council, opposition to Dutch initiatives, taken without consultation with BES official, might be fierce.</p> <p>The present independent councilman and commissioner, Anthony Nicolaas, is not on the MBL list but is reported to support the MBL. Party leader Dirksz explained that there had been a lot of interest in getting on the party list, but they had had to stop at 25.</p>



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On the island since... 1997 and 2010 – Malou Huiskamp

“My mom was born on Curaçao and when she was 13 she moved to Holland. Years later she met my dad and I arrived September 26, 1985. I also have a brother, Stan; he’s two years younger. When I was 11, my mom, my brother and I came to Bonaire. We moved in with my grandmother. It was hot and I had to get used to the SGB high school system which was quite chaotic. You never knew what they were up to and I didn’t speak Papiamentu. It was difficult, but... we are people who adjust relatively fast to changes. Soon enough I’d made friends and after five months I knew the basics of Papiamentu. From then on it went straight forward.

Of all the things that were different what struck me most was that people here seemed to enjoy life so much more. They were living in the present. It was a very big difference compared to Holland and... it still is. After some time, my mom, my brother and I went to live on our own. I joined Jong Bonaire after school. We went snorkeling, I learned in-line skating and I got my first e-mail address at Jong Bonaire. I had no idea what to do with it, but okay... hahaha!

“... but sometimes things in life just happen, those are the moments, the opportunities which reveal themselves seemingly out of nowhere.”

I’ve never been bored growing up on Bonaire. We moved ‘a 100 times.’ Whenever we found a better house we would pick up our things and go. I’d go out – my mom knew all my friends – there wasn’t much going on but we made it fun. We went camping at Sorobon where we set illegal bonfires, we watched movies and ate popcorn at someone’s house and sometimes we went to Karel’s or City.

After I’d graduated Havo, I felt I had to move on to get to know the world outside Bonaire. I went back to Holland with the help of SSNA, the Foundation of Study Financing of the Netherlands Antilles, and I started studying social work. My mom was a social worker and because of all the stories she told me I thought it would be something for me too as we all are very social people. But somehow it didn’t fit me – I found it depressing. You would help one client to get back on his feet and if he succeeded it was great, but then there was always the next case and many clients just couldn’t make it. I was afraid it would drag me down in the long run.

So, I switched studies and started studying social and cultural development. In this field you’re also involved with people and their problems, but there’s the big picture as well. This education offers a great variety of

possibilities because you create activity programs, festivals and events – really everything considering social goals. It’s a higher professional education which takes four years to complete, but it took me a bit more than five years as I had changed quite a bit while I was living on Bonaire, especially when it came to culture and the way I saw life. When my co-students were stressing out, I thought ‘so what – tomorrow is another day!’

It sounds a bit ignorant, but that’s how it was. My friendships were also very diverse; I befriended people from all kinds of backgrounds – Moroccan, Turkish, Antillean, Surinamese and Dutch, while most students stayed in their own little circle. I guess that’s what the island taught me...

After my graduation I worked for one year as a telephone operator at a central alarm post for various insurance companies. And then recession struck. I was a temporary employee and the first one who had to go. Just before I was dismissed I’d booked a flight to Bonaire as my grandmother was going to be 80 and we were planning to celebrate it together with the whole family. Then I lost my job and I thought ‘I should have saved my money



Malou Huiskamp

for more important things...’

I still had three months to go before my grandma’s birthday and applied for jobs like a madwoman. It was all in vain - and as I am someone who really doesn’t like to sit still, I went through a bad time.

When I came to Bonaire it was great to see my family. I went to Jong Bonaire to say hello and revive old memories and they received me with wide open arms. They asked me ‘Hey, what did you do? What’s your life like?’ They were sweet and interested and when I told them I couldn’t find a job, they said ‘Why don’t you apply for a job with us?’ She looks at me and smiles. ‘I came here to visit and I was going back to Holland – but sometimes things in life just happen. Those are

(Continued on page 5)

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On the Island Since
(Continued from page 4)

the moments, the opportunities which reveal themselves seemingly out of nowhere and you have to grab them with both hands. You can make plans, but life takes its own course....

I applied for the job and was accepted four weeks later. Here they wanted me! Ha! There isn't a lot of work on Bonaire, but for certified people who speak Papiamentu, there is. At Jong Bonaire they require that you speak Papiamentu, as it is the first language of the children and you have to be able to step into their world, their experiences. And anyway, when you live somewhere and you don't speak the language, you will always be an outsider.

I feel..." *She looks pensive.* "the place where you grow up and where you go through puberty has the biggest impact on your identity. The Antillean culture has become to a large extent the most important part of my identity - but..." *She laughs,* "not entirely, because inside of me I still can be a real Dutch girl now and then!

We - my family - are a bunch of nomads. My grandma is from Curaçao, but we all lived in Holland. When my grandfather passed away, my grandma, Maria Zengerink 'tante Doeri', started

longing for the quiet and friendly Curaçao as she knew it from when she was a child. So, she chose to go to Bonaire and my Uncle Reno followed her, then my mom Marianne and my brother and I came and then my Aunt Mena and my Aunt Carin.

Only my Aunt Bianca still lives in Holland. Some years ago my mom went back to Holland together with my brother. But now she and my step dad and Stan are back on Bonaire as well. Together with Stan I am renting a house in Tera Kora. It's well maintained and we have a big garden, it's great! Stan is working at Macho Plaza and my job is just wonderful. Every day I get up feeling happy.

During the morning hours we're busy organizing and preparing for the activities in the afternoons. We are also putting together the Jong Bonaire Calendar for 2012 which has the theme, Antillean proverbs. We also make preparations for classes which are taking place here between 2 and 3 pm. I am teaching Dutch together with a Dutch teacher and most recently we are coordinating Jong Bonaire's Fun Walk and Bike Tour which will take place March 13.

Every leader here is a mentor of about 26 children. You discuss all kinds of issues with them, you



Jong Bonaire group photo, from the left to the right: Shaba, Winnie, Pichon, William, Malou, Paco, Sinaida, Jhon, Lisa, Pretin and Netti - absent are Suzanne, Bila and Ilona.

do fun things with them, but you also keep an eye on them to see if they're okay. You are there for them. In the afternoons we have all kinds of activities like kayaking in the mangroves, taking care of the horses at Rancho Washikemba. We do a snorkel course, we go sailing with the Sunfishes - it's all outdoors, something I missed terribly in Holland."

Malou is a special girl; she sees through things, she's wise and very mature and her mind is sharp, but she's also laidback, kind and lovely.

"When I come home from

work I feel completely satisfied! My colleagues are great people - a whole bunch of different characters, but it works. This job is different every week. What else could you wish for?

At this moment I wouldn't want to go back to Holland for anything. I feel I made the right choice and I am happy. It was necessary to leave and find out what else was going on in the world, but now I am firmly rooted in this soil. This island is my home - something I never felt in Holland. I love its nature - I don't miss the Dutch cows - and its free life..."

She laughs.

"When I walk my dog I don't have to be afraid she poops in the wrong place! Of course I am well aware of the fact that this island has its borders other than the sea - nothing ever goes the way you expect it - but for me it is 'let it be!' It's another system - a whole different way of life. ... there is no explanation for love."■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



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Pet of the Week

What a profile! This is "Suus," otherwise known as "Susie." What an alert, gorgeous dog she is. Suzie is playful and energetic and friendly. In fact she really believes she's a small dog who would just love to work her way into your heart. She has a presence and would make a good watch dog. She's about two years old, past the sometimes destructive puppy stage, but still young enough for training to live with your lifestyle. Susie has the most attractive chocolate colored short fur, so easy to care for without a "doggie" smell. She's perfect!



Susie

And, like all the other adoptees at the Bonaire Animal Shelter, Susie is in excellent health and is social. She's had her exam by the vet, worming, shots and sterilization. All that is included in the dog adoption fee of \$75. That also included the ID chip. A terrific deal and you can't go wrong with a Shelter dog. They are "known quantities."

The Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. A lot of time goes into keeping the Shelter's website up to date. See for yourself: WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com. ■ Laura DeSalvo

Shelter Volunteers Get Together



Marian Walthie photo

Some of the loyal, hardworking and very positive volunteers from the Bonaire Animal Shelter got together last Sunday, February 13, at Rumba Café (Buenos Aires Café) for a happy hour of fun and socializing. If you would like to be part of this wonderful group, call the Shelter at 717-4989. There are a multitude of jobs – one of which is to "keep the cats and dogs social." You may pick your times. You won't regret it!

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BONAIREAN VOICES

ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE FOR THE FUTURE

Some people are still wondering what the future will be for the island of Bonaire. It's not surprising with all the commotion and confusion going on that might still be affecting our community mind.

Another political leader, Mr. Robert Charles Mario (Robby) Beukenboom (56), of the Demokrat Red Party has his own opinion about this matter. Before we get into the political part let's understand who Mr. Robby Beukenboom is. As Robby himself tells us,

"I was born on Bonaire, went to primary school Frater Dominicus School and then to a middle basic education at Lourdes MAVO School." When Mr. Beukenboom finished his study in Bonaire he went to Holland for higher education and came back to Bonaire to help in the family business. "My mother, Angelina Beukenboom, who's owned the Hotel Rochaline (a name which is a combination of the family names: me, Robert, my father Charles, my mother Angelina and my sisters Charlotte, Aneline and Elsmarie.)

So it was a family business and in the hotel patios today we have the well known City Café. My father, besides being a farmer, was a political leader of the Bonaire Progressive Party (*Partido Progresista Boneriano*) when I was still a little boy. My father was always a member of the Island Council and an opponent of the Social Democratic Party led by Mr. Joel Abraham, Jopie Abraham father."

Robby Beukenboom has a different opinion from that of his father. "I admire the Democratic Party because they fight for the rights of the working class. They were the first ones who started with the social pensions for the elderly (AOW) on Bonaire. Their ideology was different from other parties. That's why in 1994 I joined the party for the first time and have been a member of the Island Council for 16 years.

What I can say about the government is that it wasn't prepared for the transition.



Robby Beukenboom

The introduction of the dollar was without sufficient control. A Consumer Commission should control the prices. Our Bonairean community is facing the rise in gasoline prices, extra taxes, while the income of the working class stays the same, with the consequences that the consumers don't buy so much.

Another problem is the limitation of certain medication that the consumer needs to purchase.

Another concern is the image of our Bonairean politicians, whether they are corrupt, yes or no. Every time we have to sit at the table to negotiate with Holland it will become an issue. The Bonairean government has been unstable. We've experienced changes in the government five times, with the changes of parties or deputies. We need to evaluate with Holland what went wrong or right and for this we need to integrate people.

For good government we need a new parliamentary and government procedure that requires transparent and integrity. The Lieutenant Governor appointed by the Dutch Kingdom is responsible

for good government and the constitution. So a financial disclosure and a good conduct of each commissioner and Island Council member should be required.

We need to realize that we have experienced changes in our constitution and we need to evaluate the changes in a broader way together with the RCN, the government and every sector involved. The evaluation needs to be democratic. The community also needs to evaluate. Some of the changes have been partially made. That's why now we need to renegotiate those transient procedures because after five years all Dutch laws will apply for Bonaire."

So today we must be critical and not take a YES for a yes, neither a NO for a no. We must evaluate the plusses and the minuses. Beukenboom is a political leader who has taken Bonaire's future into consideration. Now is your chance to vote for the upcoming elections 2nd of March 2011 and don't waste your vote for the future of Bonaire. ■ Siomara Albertus.

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



Karate Builds Character



A large group of trainees recently passed their karate exams and received their certificates from Sensei Peter Silberie and Tuki Josepha. In his talk to the group Sensei Silberie emphasized the qualities that come from training: respect, discipline and perseverance. He encouraged parents to enroll their children to see the benefits themselves. ■ Press release

BonQuiz #47

NAME THIS LAND HOUSE



From this picture you should be able to identify this Land House (*landhuis*).

Years ago this particular place was renovated and was to be used as a marine biological center for visiting students, professors, photographers, writers and divers alike.

This historical site was equipped with a laboratory, library, living quarters, a kitchen, bathrooms, and rinse tanks. Generators supplied electricity. Within a decade it was abandoned, ransacked and has since become a ruin.

Q) Which Land House is this? Who inaugurated the renovations, in what year?



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.

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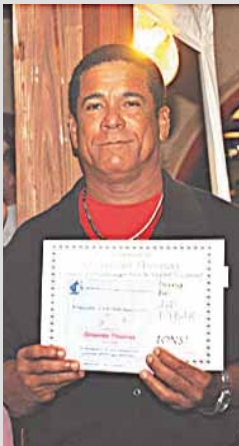
To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region. Answer on page 17.

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

Bonhata's 14th Annual Awards

On Tuesday February 15th BONHATA (Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association) presented its 14th Annual Awards to persons who merited recognition because of their exceptional contributions to Bonaire tourism. Some 200 persons attended the event at the Kontiki Beach Resort which started at 7:30 pm and lasted until late that night. Weather conditions were perfect during the awards given to BONHATA members and other individuals who had made significant contributions to Bonaire's tourism industry.

The winner of the **Employee of the Year** was **Orlando Thomas** from Divi Dive because: "Orlando is a dive master/boat captain and has been working for Divi Dive many, many years. He is cheerful, always entertaining the guests, while providing maximum safety. He goes the extra mile by involving more and more youngsters in the dive industry and making them aware that this is a good way of earning a living and being proud of what their island has to offer."



Another award winner was **Karibiksport**, a German/Bonairean tour operation offering full package sport holidays for German speaking tourists. Joint Partner and representative of the company on Bonaire is **Inka Lübcke**. Here she proudly shows the award, reading: "Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association



14th Annual Awards Event. Presented to: Karibiksport. In recognition for your contribution to the Tourism Industry of Bonaire 2010."

Others receiving awards were **Governor Glenn Thodé, Huub Groot, Serge de Groot and Digicel Bonaire.**

The winner of the Supervisor of the Year was **Rodney Thode** of Rocargo Services. Congratulations to all the winners.

In connection with the Awards Event, BONHATA thanked those who contributed to the fund-raising raffle prizes:

A.B. Car Rental, Adams Unlimited, Addo's Bookstore, Antillean Wine Company, Atlantis Duty Free, Asecom Benetton, Bonaire Tours & Vacation, Breezes SuperClub Curaçao, Cadushy B.V., Captain Don, Captain Don's Habitat, Coffie & van der Hoek, Digicel Bonaire, Divi Dive, Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino, Fumus N.V., Hertz Car Rental, Hotel Restaurant Roomer, Hugo Gerharts, Insel Air, J.C. Herrera, Jibe City, Kiteboarding Bonaire, KLM, La Pura Vista, Littman Gift Shop, Littman Jewelers, Maduro & Curriel's Bank Bonaire, Otrobanda Hotel & Casino, Rum Runners Restaurant, Sunbelt Realty, Tempo Team, Total Car Rental.

Thanks to KonTiki Beach Bonaire management and staff for the great food, table service and beverage service. To M.C. Corine Gerharts – a fantastic job as always.

On a final note, the Fund Raising Raffle more than reached its target of \$2,250 to help the Bonaire Heritage Foundation produce a self-guided "Historical Walking Tour of Rincon" booklet – with a final total of \$2,725.00. The remaining funds will be donated to another cultural/tourism project. ■ *Jan Brouwer/press release* Contact BONHATA for more information, Telephone: 717-5134, E-mail: info@bonhata.org

(Continued from page 2)

Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention in Miami this March, the largest exhibition in the field.

►When we filled the tank in our compact pickup last week it cost about \$75. But only 50 miles south it would have cost about \$1. **Venezuela's gasoline is the cheapest in the world**, its energy minister said on Sunday. Its cost is \$0.03-0.04 per liter (\$0.11-0.15 per gallon).

►**Who am I? Where do I come from? What happens when I die?** Why does this happen to me again? Why do I constantly walk into the same wall over and over again? Why me? Why this? Why now? Which one of you has never asked yourself one of these or similar questions?

During a theatrical lecture in **Dutch Jhanna Houweling**, a Dutch actress and public speaker, gives insight into these vital questions in a playful, easy accessible and scientifically based way. At the same time the true cause is discovered of our daily conflicts. It might be that that which we consider unreal turns out to be very real. And vice versa.

Visit Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47, on **Saturday February 26th and Wed-**

nesday, March 2nd at 8 pm and discover how to See with New Eyes!

After the break there will be plenty of time to ask your most pressing questions and to discuss the contents of the lecture.

Make reservations through Annemiek le Noble: Mob: +599 786 3341 or Email: annemiek@bonairebasics.com

Houweling visited Bonaire three years ago with one of her theatrical lectures. She'll be on the island from February 21 through March 5. For more info: www.levenoftheater.nl or www.bonairebasics.com

►**The Jan Art Gallery has a new location.** Jan Art, established in 1998, has been operating in Antriol specializing in paintings of Bonaire by artist Janice Huckaby, a resident since 1991. She will now be bringing her art to Kaya Grandi #14. The new store will have fine art of Bonaire, art supplies for the hobbyist and professionals, and custom framing services for home owners and businesses at this new location.

►**Bonaire author Eveline deBruyn has another book coming out soon, The Book of Lillith.** It is set after the first decade of the 21st century, in the midst of a chaotic collective evolutionary moment, the cusp of



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Holland's "Three Baritones" Draw a Sell-Out Crowd

The Netherlands' famed "De 3 Baritons" wowed a sell-out crowd at Plaza Resort Bonaire on Wednesday evening, February 16, with an international medley of songs that would have warmed virtually any audience. Performing in an open-air band stand fronting the sea beneath a brilliant full moon, the baritones were prefaced by Bonaire's well-loved local group, Tutti Fruity, with a medley of songs of its own. Then, after nearly two hours of full-throated baritone entertainment, both groups joined for a finale in the Papiamentu language to a thunderous audience reception.

The "Baritons" began their performance with wonderful baritone Italian operatic arias, shifted quickly to several German romantic selections, saluted the Emerald Isle with a baritone rendition of Danny Boy, belted out the American ballad, Shenandoah, then switched to a couple of Stephen Foster classics, accompanied by Hans Faassen on the keyboard.

After intermission, the "Baritons" struck a belated Valentine's Day chord with romantic tunes from the American



50s song book.

For an Antillean audience the highlight of the evening (and possibly the most challenging moments of the concert for the "Baritons") came at the finale when the visiting Dutchmen joined "Tutti Fruity" to sing locally famed tunes in Papiamentu.

"De 3 Baritons" evening was organized by Plaza Resort Bonaire in conjunction with Classical Music Board Bonaire (CMBB). **The next CMBB-organized performance will feature acclaimed Venezuelan pianist Ana Karina Alamo in concert at Plaza Resort's Cacique Hall on Saturday, April 16 at 8 pm.** ■ *Bob Gilmour*

a new era. In it, a postmenopausal Lillith Moore finds herself still in search of love. A spiritual journey toward a more conscious awareness of life and the many shapes of love unfolds. The Book of Lillith takes us on a celestial magic carpet ride and gives us a glimpse of the meditation on the transformational power of love. For more details visit <http://www.evelinebodymindspirit.com/>.

► In the January 28th edition we published an **incorrect phone number** for Annemieke Heutinck of the Heart for Bonaire in a story about CPR at Bon Fysio/Bon Bida.. Her correct number is: **786-3727**. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. ■

G./L. D.

Letters to the Editor

HAVE RESPECT

Dear Editor,
I would like visitors to pay more attention to the Bonairean traditions and culture. First I'm talking about the tourists who come off their cruise ships, hanging around in the streets and the shops with no decent clothes whatsoever. Almost every day in the Kaya Grandi you see tourists, she in her bikini and he in his swimming shorts.



Andre/Catharine photo

I understand that they are on vacation. It's warm and it's the Caribbean, but then again our streets are not a beach or a pool. Most of the shops and supermarkets have rules to put on decent clothing before you can get any service, but we still can stand in the queue behind a diver who just came out of the water with his wet suit still dripping! Second are the tourists who insist on going topless on public beaches. I find that annoying that they have no respect for the local culture. And I don't care even if it were Pamela Anderson. It's just a matter of respecting the traditions of the place you are visiting or you live in.

Maybe we should point out this to the tourists before they arrive on the island through the TCB website.

Khalito G.

CANDIDATE'S NIGHT

Dear Citizens of Bonaire,

On Wednesday, March 2nd, the citizens of Bonaire get to elect a new Island Council which will represent them for the coming four years. This will be the first Island Council to take seat after the so much talked about 10-10-10 and the rapid changes taking hold on our Island. A total of five political organizations, each with a plentitude of candidates, are vying for your favor this coming election.

My name is Clark Abraham. I am 30 years of age. I was born and raised on Bonaire. I've studied Public Administration and I also am a candidate for the coming election for the Democratic Party. In this ample choice of candidates and in this multitude of changes and obstacles coming our way, why would you invest your confidence specifically in me and why should I be honored with your vote? That is the core question I would like to address.



Clark Abraham

Downtown tourists

There isn't enough printing space nor would I bore you with all the things we need changed in our society today. The problems within our society are so multiple, broad and deep-rooted that it would take me quite a while to reveal and address them all. I will share with you two core principles that I live by:

We can measure development of a society not by its physical development, but by the development of its people;

We should not only want, think or talk change, we must BE change;

From these two principles I have distilled a multitude of policies and actions that I would love to share and debate with you.

It is therefore that I would like to invite you to a meeting at the 'Sentro di Bario Nort di Saliña' on Wednesday February 23rd at 18:00, where in a more personal 'Town Hall' setting I could give a presentation on my views and be there to answer any of your questions or remarks. This will be an open debate where your points of view are just as or even more important than mine. Hopefully we can meet each other there so together we can debate on the future of our Island.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE LOEMPIAS GONE?

Dear Editor:
In the old days when ALM used to land in Curaçao prior to coming to Bonaire (maybe), the flight crew and I used to race madly for a stand at the airport that sold the wonderful and magic Loempias. These were not the smaller, greasy, and understuffed ones of today, but the real Antillean Loempia. A fantastic culinary creation of these islands.

Does anyone still make these the old way on Bonaire?

Bob Tseng



Sailing Teen Laura Dekker Visits Bonaire

Mallory Smith photo



Laura Dekker on board at the Plaza Resort Marina

Most teenager girls don't grow up with the dream to become the youngest person to sail solo around the world, but for 15-year-old Laura Dekker, a love for sailing is in her blood. Born on a yacht off the coast of New Zealand, Dekker started sailing at age six and has been drawn to the tranquility of the sport ever since. "I like sailing because it's really quiet and it's a good way to travel because you always have your home with you."

Since setting sail from Gibraltar last August, Dekker has been making her way across the Atlantic from Africa and then down into Caribbean waters where she made stops in Sint Maarten and Dominica. On Saturday February 5th, Dekker sailed into Bonaire's Plaza Marina in the early hours of the morning.

Bonaire is a special stop for Dekker, who has made the island one of the few major harbors of her journey. Over the next few weeks, Dekker will spend time catching up on schoolwork and visiting with some of her family members, who will be flying in from The Netherlands to visit her. So far, Dekker has been enjoying the nice weather while she organizes her boat and has also liked watching the local iguanas that live near the docks of the harbor. "They are really beautiful and big, I have already seen a few a half meter long."

While she is on the island, Dekker plans to take advantage of scuba diving Bonaire's reefs and will also be recording some short nature videos for Sea Shepherd, an organization that is committed to ocean conservation worldwide. Throughout her trip, Dekker will be working closely with Sea Shepherd and plans to meet some of its members when she stops in the Galapagos Islands and Australia. Dekker hopes that through this partnership, she can somehow give back to the oceans she is sailing.

Even though it's early on, Dekker says that she has had a good journey to date, only encountering a few ripped sails along the way. After leaving Bonaire she will sail through the Panama Canal, and eventually on to the Pacific, an area she is looking forward to visiting despite its vast distances. "I know it will be beautiful, but there are lots of rocks and small islands. Its difficult to sail there."

If Dekker does come across any unexpected challenges she is very well equipped. Her 38ft red yacht named "Guppy" has GPS, radar, VHF radio,

EPIRB (an emergency radio beacon), a satellite telephone and a satellite tracking system. In fact, Dekker's father can track her boat's location at any time via the internet. Dekker has also taken a number of courses, including medical first aid to prepare for her voyage.

In order to secure the title of youngest person to sail around the world, Dekker will need to complete her trip by July 2012. Currently, Australian Jessica Watson grabbed that title when she completed her sail in May 2010 at age 16. But there is more than just the title that Dekker wants from this experience. "I want to see a lot of the world, learn more and get a good grounding experience that I will have for the rest of my life."

If anything, Dekker is extremely confident in her sailing abilities and is determined to make her dream come true. "My only advice, not only for young sailors but for people who have a dream and may think that they can't do it is to just try. If you don't try you won't ever know. If you really want something just believe in yourself and do it." ■ *Story & photo by*

Mallory Smith

Editor's note— After refusing additional interviews on Bonaire following a brief press conference, Miss Dekker flew to The Netherlands to promote her interests at a boat show.



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The Sailors Who Never Left

A New Reporter Series Begins

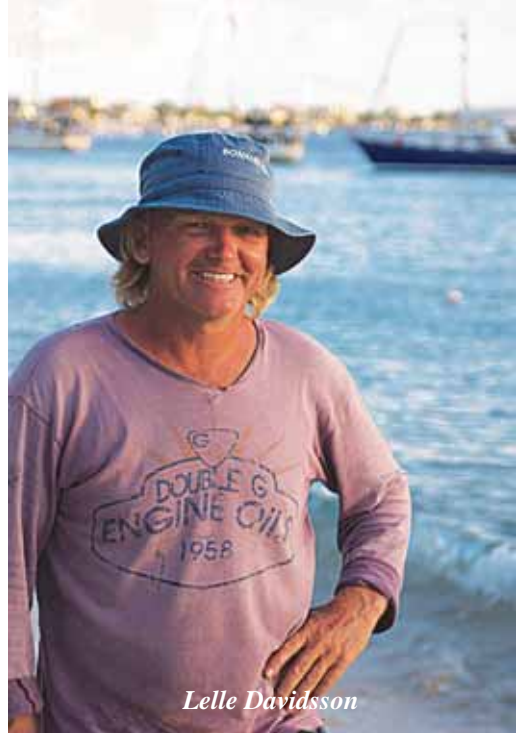
What is the allure of Bonaire for those who sail to the island by sea? Perhaps it is the stunning water world of reef, turtles and fish. Maybe it is the island's varied terrain of salt flats, hills, salinas and charming kunukus that is the draw. Possibly it is the genuine friendliness of the Bonairean people.

Whatever brings these adventurous voyagers here, the island has qualities that have attracted mariners for centuries. Most come and then leave for other destinations. But for others, the irresistible charms of Bonaire latch onto them and will not let go. This island becomes their last port of call. Welcome to the Part One of the series, The Sailors Who Never Left....

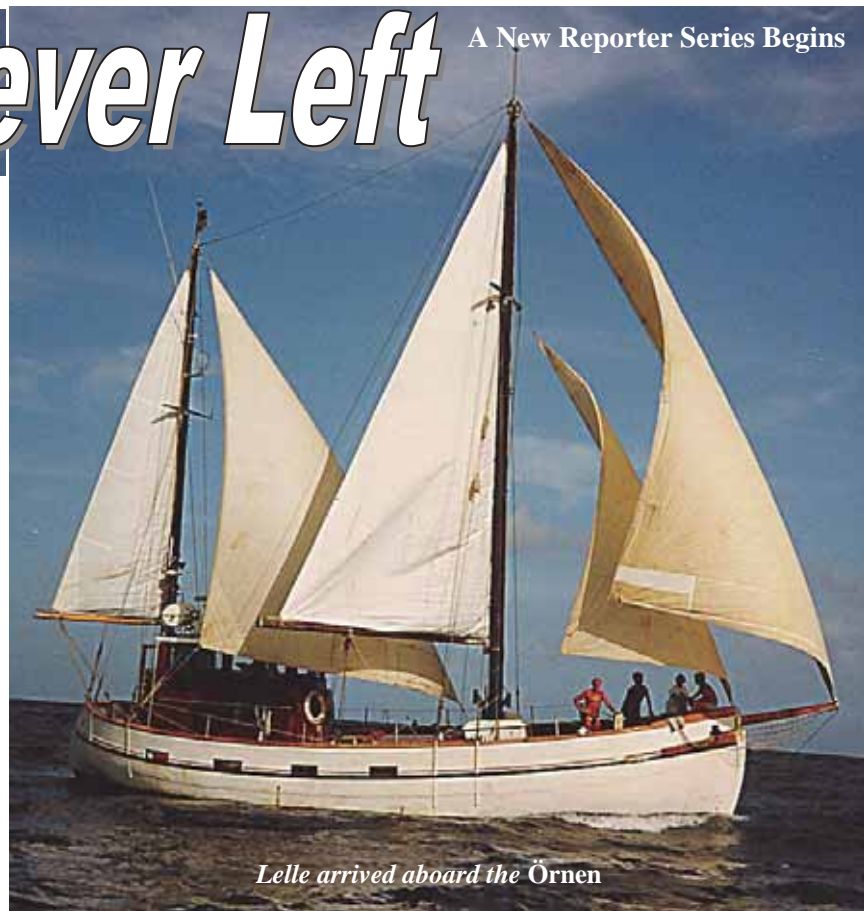
PART ONE-- BOAT YARD OWNER, LELLE DAVIDSSON STILL HAS A LINK TO THE SEA.

There are thousands of nautical miles between dushi Bonaire and Lennart 'Lelle' Davidsson's homeland of Sweden. Lelle spent his childhood learning to sail in cold Scandinavian waters and by the time he reached his mid 20s, the lure of the sea was calling. On October 2, 1992, Davidsson left as part of the crew on *Royal Eagle*, a 64-foot racer/cruiser that was Caribbean bound.

His plan was to cruise the islands, bail out in Central America, travel north to San Francisco, perhaps work for a boatyard there, and then return to Sweden in about a year. Unknown to Lelle, that plan began to



Lelle Davidsson



Lelle arrived aboard the Örn

unravel before the *Royal Eagle* had even left coastal Europe. In **La Palma, Spain**, Davidsson met the crew from another Swedish boat, *Örn*. Built in 1933, the wooden, 50-foot, two-mast fishing trawler was also headed to the West Indies, albeit at a sea turtle's pace. The two crews discovered their hometowns were in close proximity and most had mutual friends back home. It was also here that Lelle met *Örn*'s crewmember, Per Magnusson. The two would soon cross paths again.

Royal Eagle's first Caribbean port of call was the French island of Martinique. The boat's owner took on charters so Lelle and his mates got to see much of the Windward and Leeward islands. Months later in Barbados, they once again ran into the crew from the *Örn*. For Davidsson it was like meeting old friends, and he decided to join them on their world voyage. The crew of six sailed south to Grenada—the island of the spices—reveled in the wild Carnival of Trinidad for days where they signed on two more

Swedish sailors, and then journeyed westward to the Venezuelan islands of Testigos, Isla de Margarita and Los Roques. It was in March of 1993 when *Örn* dropped anchor in Bonaire.

"The water was amazing," recalls Lelle. "We had seen nice water on the other islands, but when I came to Bonaire it was stunning. I remember thinking, 'Wow! This is clear!'" After four hours in Bonaire

(Continued on page 17)

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Eco Dive Around Klein Bonaire-UNDERWATER

Tens of thousands of nature lovers and divers visit the island of Bonaire each year. An unspoiled jewel in the Dutch Caribbean, home to beautiful wildlife. On December 27, 2010, two divers scuba dove completely around Klein Bonaire to raise money for two of the island's conservation groups.

Bonaire residents Leo Hoogenboom and Felix Faassen circumnavigated Klein Bonaire underwater to raise money for environmental organizations STINAPA and Sea Turtle Conservation (STCB). They hope their eco dive contributes to raising awareness for the conservation of Bonaire's nature and its future.

With more and more tourists visiting Bonaire each year there is extra stress on the island's environment, the coral reefs and its inhabitants. If you want to raise awareness you first must make a statement, something that is out of the ordinary, and should take an effort and preferably has never been done before.

In early 2010 Hoogenboom and Faassen started talking about doing long duration dives without dive scooters. During one of these conversations they thought, why not circumnavigate Klein Bonaire? And so the idea was born. They coupled the dive to a fundraiser for Bonaire's two leading organizations working to protect Bonaire's

nature.

"We first started measuring a circumnavigation using Google Earth and later made a kayak trip close to the reef with the help of GPS to determine the distance and what the average speed underwater would be. We measured that our dive would be around 11KM. Depending on weather and current conditions we calculated an average of 1 KM/hour and some rest time. This would mean the dive could take between 10 and 16 hours." they said.

The Dive

The whole team met up at 3 am on December 27. "At 3:30 am we left the dock at Captain Don's Habitat, heading for No Name beach, where we would start our dive at 4 am and descended to our max depth of 9m / 30ft. At 4:15 we got the first visit by our support free diver, Deaxo, who would continue to keep visual contact for the entire dive with 15minute intervals. As soon as he would break the surface, he would signal this to the two support scuba divers on the boat, David and Devon, who were standing by to assist. After one hour into the dive we started getting some ambient light, which triggered a lot of the reef inhabitants to wake up. Because we were constantly swimming we switched the tanks about every hour.

After 330 minutes we ascended from 9m/30ft to 6m/20ft to mini-

mize our decompression obligation.

Where we didn't have any current pushing us in the right direction, we didn't have much trouble.

When we turned around the northwest corner, however (dive site Carl's Hill), we got a strong current against us. As we swam clockwise around the island, this was the last section of our dive but proved to be the most challenging as well. At this point, we were over 8 hours into the dive and were both quite tired.

To be conservative on our decompression, we switched to oxygen enriched air for the last hour of the dive."

During that last hour, more and more people started to follow them while snorkeling and as they ascended to 3m/10ft.

After 620 minutes they finally returned to No Name beach and walked out of the water. Many people were gathered on the beach to welcome them. Leo and Felix had spent over 10 hours underwater.

After some well needed rest, the divers headed to a party which started at 8 pm. They thanked the many dedicated volunteers who kept the official Eco Dive booth open, where people were able to get information about the dive, make donations and purchase merchandise, open during the day as well as during the party at night.



David, Felix, Leo & Devon minutes before the dive



Hydropack exchange 5 hours into the dive



Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland

Elections Wednesday, March 2nd, 2011:

Changed electoral regulations!



Change of ballot sheet

For the upcoming island council elections some existing rules have changed.

The ballot sheet looks different. The ballot sheet is printed in black-and-white: the name of the participating parties is mentioned, but the party colors are no longer visible. Also there is no picture of the leader of the list. Each party does have an own number.

You'll be voting too, right?

For more information:

www.rijksdienstcn.com/eilandsraadsverkiezingen



Mary Lovie And Her Brand New Buell Blast Single

The 86th 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/Hato –
So a couple of days ago I met Mary Lovie. She introduced herself to me and told me that we were almost neighbors, living in the same bario of Hato. The distance between her residence and my house was about 500 meters at the most. I knew about the house. I had seen a Harley-Davidson parked on the drive way but what I did not know was that she was the proud owner of a Buell single-cylinder motorcycle. Ignorant fool without knowledge I am. I knew about the all-American made Buell motorcycles. I knew about the impressive V-twins, but I did not know about the Buell Blast, the 500 cc single cylinder! Shame on me! In the last 36 years I owned more than 30 motorcycles. Most of them were single cylinders. I am a single-cylinder aficionado and I did not know about the Buell Blast.



Mary Lovie, sitting on her brand new Buell Blast with a friend. Next to her bike is another Blast parked. This customized bike is owned by Mary's friend Nadine.

O.K. I am ignorant and a fool without knowledge. Now, finally, I know a little bit better. The Buell Blast is a single-cylinder 492 cc air cooled overhead valve motorcycle that was produced by the Buell Motorcycle Company from 2000 to 2009. And the frame of Mary Lovie's Sunfire yellow sprayed Buell Blast reads: "AUG 2009."

Mary and Gary Lovie are from Ontario, Canada. They first visited the island of Bonaire in the year 2000. They fell in love with the island and Gary really liked the underwater world. Mary is a doctor of veterinarian medicine and during their stay of three weeks on the island she got in contact with the Animal Shelter. Then she asked whether she could be of any help working as a volunteer.

In the following years Mary and Gary visited the island frequently. Together with two American, two Dutch and another Canadian veterinarian they organized a plan for sterilizing dogs. Anesthetic medicines were imported and in the year 2004 some 300 female dogs were sterilized. It

took several years to convince the people of Bonaire and to cure the problem. The problem will probably never be under control but the veterinarians and the Animal Shelter made a lot of progress. Every dog can now be sterilized for free.

Mary and Gary liked Bonaire so much that they decided to buy their own property. They bought a neat house in the older neighborhood of Hato. They repainted and refurbished the house. Now it is a pleasant place to live, low on maintenance.

One day Gary imported his Harley-Davidson 1550 Electra Glide. The machine was made in 2009. The Electra Glide is completely standard. The bike is painted black and the engine has fuel injection. A very nice bike, completely original. Reliable and a pleasure to ride.

Then Gary and Mary decided to buy another motorcycle. In Canada Mary had had some experience with a four-stroke, single-cylinder 250 cc Suzuki. The machine was small and handy but a little bit slow. So they ordered the Buell Blast. This Sunfire Yellow sprayed fun machine is a pleasure to ride. The design goals were: low cost, ease of operation and ease of maintenance. The dry weight of the machine is only 163 kilograms/360 pounds. Engine power is delivered to the rear wheel by an automatically tensioned belt. The valve lifters are hydraulic and self-adjusting. The carburetor has an automatic choke and of course a starter motor is fitted. The engine produces 34 British horsepower at 6500 revs per minute. There is a

5-speed gearbox and because of the two 16-inch wheels the bike is relatively low, handy and maneuverable. For these reasons hundreds of Buell Blasts are used for Harley-Davidson's Riders Edge New Rider program in the States, a similar course to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Basic Rider Course, a course to learn how to handle a motorcycle.

As mentioned, Mary's bike is sprayed Sunfire yellow. The frame is sprayed silver and functions as a tank for the engine oil. Front and rear wheels are made of cast alloy and there are two disc brakes. There are Pirelli tubeless tires. Mary's bike has two handy little saddle bags and a wind screen. The bike only has a jiffy or side stand, no prop stand. A Sylvania H4 halogen sealed beam is mounted in the front between the non-adjustable front fork legs.

The dash board is basic: just a speedometer, a digital odometer and an oil pressure indicator. The meter reads: "Buell, a Harley-Davidson company." Mary turns the key of the ignition. The starter motor turns, the oil pressure warning light turns off, the engine starts. "Plop, plop, plop, whahhhh!" This is the unmistakable sound of a big single!

In 2009 Erik Buell stopped producing the Blast. A Buell Blast was destroyed in an automotive crusher.

Crushed Blast cubes were for sale, available in blue, black and yellow, individually signed and numbered by Erik Buell ... ■

Story & photos by J@n Brouwer



Picture Yourself With The Reporter In... As A Winner



The Richter family with *The Reporter* in Antarctica—2010 Picture Yourself Winner

It's getting harder and harder every year to pick the "Picture Yourself" winners for *The Reporter*. This last year, 2010, readers remembered to take *The Reporter* with them – tucked away in suitcases, backpacks and who knows where else. Consequently it showed up in places all over the world last year. There is was with our readers in: Alberta (Canada), Antarctic Peninsula, Arapaho Basin (Colo), Atlanta (Georgia), Bangkok, Barranquilla (Colombia), DMZ (Korea), Chicago, Dubuque (Iowa), Ely (Nevada), Fiji, Fort Worth (Texas), Haiti, Japan, *Koemarket* (Netherlands), Las Vegas, Nevada, Nova Scotia (Canada), Philippines, Rocky Mountains (New Mexico), Salem (Massachusetts), San Diego (California), Smokey Mountains, Tennessee and Zambia. Hearty congratulations to the 2010 *Bonaire Reporter* winners:

First Prize goes to the Jake Richter family ensconced on a freezing piece of ground on the Antarctic Peninsula. Not only did they have to worry about freezing to death but they'd remembered to bring along *The Reporter* on the Zodiac trip to land. (*Bonaire Reporter*, March 19-April 9, 2010, issue).

Their prize is a complete dinner for four at Pasa Bon Pizza

Second Prize goes to Nadine and Murray Rubin who organized an incredible underwater photo with some of their Bonaire neighbors in the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta, Georgia. You can see *The Reporter* underwater, having been treated in some way for its underwater event. (*Bonaire Reporter*, August 13-27, 2010, issue).

They win a delicious large pizza from Pasa Bon Pizza.





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3456** Kaya Mandolin 2, call **795 3456**

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ated beds and shower from the 20th of
February until the 20th of June 2011. I
can pay 160 euro per month. It must be
near *Forma*. José Martha Alleleijn
email: Jiru@une.ne.t.co Tel: 009 57
4 3014045.

MISCELLANEOUS

Antiques and Collectibles
Call 795-9760

For Sale Pioneer Receiver/Tuner—
Model VSX-D14, 120 watts/channel,
w/ Sony 5.1 surround sound speakers,
powered woofer: \$100.
Panasonic DVD player, Model S27:
\$50. Call **717-2050**

**For sale: Full automatic washing
machine** AEG L66840, 1600 rpm, all
washing programs, contents 6 kilograms.
Machine is bought: July 2nd 2010. Still
guarantee left. **Almost brand new** and in
perfect condition. Asking price \$1100.
For more information call: 717-7851.

For Sale : Washing Machine
IGNIS 1000T , 230 V for light and
medium loads, little used, good
condition :\$220 Call : **717-5038**

**WANTED: PADI Divemaster/
Handyman** Must be able to drive boats,
guide dives, speak English.
5 day work week including weekends
and holidays. Job includes filling and
handling dive tanks and general resort
maintenance work. Call **Carib Inn at
717-8819 8 am to 5 pm**

MOVING SALE Glass-top 48" wicker
dining room table and 4 chairs -
\$290. Large 56" wicker desk with 6
drawers and upper hutch - \$375. Sam-
sung 19" computer monitor -
\$75. Blender - \$10. Desk lamp -
\$10. Drying rack - \$15. 4' metal step
ladder - \$25. Call **717-2208**

For sale: **2 hardly used Panther PRO
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two for \$650. Tel. **796-5591.**

Bubbles From the Biologist

**Did You
Know... that sea stars do
not have brains?**

They may be famous for their ability to regenerate limbs, but a brain doesn't control this. Instead, they have a complex nervous system and light-sensitive eyespots on the ends of each of their arms. Their nervous system allows them to sense touch, temperature, orientation and changes in the water around them. In addition, the "blood" of sea stars is actually filtered seawater. Considering all the cool things that sea stars do, such as hunting and reproducing, it is amazing to think that they do not have a true, centralized brain. This lack of a brain is true for other **echinoderms** (the phylum that sea stars are a part of) such as sea urchins, brittle stars, sand dollars, and sea cucumbers. So if anyone ever tells you that you have no brain, you can remind them that there are some really amazing sea creatures that don't either. ■ *Quinn de la Concepcion*



Quinn de la Concepcion is a junior biology major at Colorado College who hopes to become a physical therapist. She spent this past fall at the CIEE Research Station in



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 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
Sat 26		01:29 - 0.08 ft	07:57 1.01 ft	16:10 - 0.25 ft	20:58 0.20 ft	6:52	18:44
Sun 27		02:14 - 0.05 ft	08:44 0.96 ft	17:01 - 0.21 ft	21:50 0.19 ft	6:52	18:44
Mon 28		02:58 - 0.02 ft	09:31 0.88 ft	17:51 - 0.16 ft	22:43 0.19 ft	6:51	18:44
Tue 01		03:44 0.03 ft	10:18 0.78 ft	18:39 - 0.11 ft	23:40 0.20 ft	6:51	18:45
Wed 02		04:36 0.08 ft	11:05 0.67 ft	19:25 - 0.05 ft		6:50	18:45
Thu 03	00:40 0.24 ft	05:41 0.13 ft	11:56 0.56 ft	20:05 - 0.00 ft		6:50	18:45
Fri 04	01:37 0.29 ft	07:08 0.16 ft	12:53 0.45 ft	20:40 0.05 ft	New Moon	6:49	18:45
Sat 05	02:24 0.35 ft	08:49 0.15 ft	14:00 0.36 ft	21:08 0.09 ft		6:49	18:45
Sun 06	03:02 0.41 ft	10:20 0.11 ft	15:15 0.30 ft	21:30 0.11 ft		6:48	18:45
Mon 07	03:34 0.48 ft	11:27 0.05 ft	16:24 0.25 ft	21:49 0.13 ft		6:48	18:45
Tue 08	04:05 0.56 ft	12:18 - 0.02 ft	17:21 0.22 ft	22:09 0.13 ft		6:47	18:45
Wed 09	04:36 0.63 ft	13:01 - 0.07 ft	18:04 0.19 ft	22:32 0.11 ft		6:46	18:45
Thu 10	05:09 0.70 ft	13:39 - 0.12 ft	18:36 0.16 ft	23:00 0.08 ft		6:46	18:45
Fri 11	05:44 0.77 ft	14:15 - 0.15 ft	19:03 0.14 ft	23:35 0.04 ft		6:45	18:46

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SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

AIRLINES

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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. F 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

Exito offers fresh homemade breads and pastries, fruit shakes including fresh orange juice maker on the island, freshly made sandwiches, an expanded salad bar and other take-out items—at affordable prices.

BEAUTY PARLOR

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

CARS AND BIKES

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

CONSTRUCTION

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

DENTURE REPAIR

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

DINING

The Brandaris Café is the top-notch, spotless downtown restaurant for local, krioyo and Venezuelan food. Breakfast & Lunch only.

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

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

ON & IN THE WATER

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

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

UNDERWATER VIDEO

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

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

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

HEALTH

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

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



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

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

HOME CARE

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

PHOTO FINISHING

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

PHOTOGRAPHER

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

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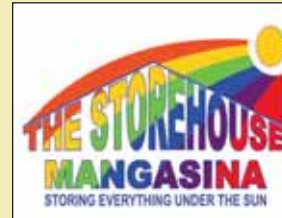


RE/MAX Paradise Homes on Kaya Grandi has extensive listings and is backed by the worldwide RE/MAX support.

RETAIL

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

STORAGE



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

SECURITY

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



SHIPPING

Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent. What would we do without their superb services?**



SUPERMARKETS

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

(ISLAND) TOURS

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

WATER TAXI

Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor*. Hotel or downtown pickup The only water taxi to Klein Bonaire with built-in ramp

WINES

Antillean Wine Company. You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery. Kaya Industria 23, Mon.-Sat. 9 am-noon.

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Trees Saved Responsible Development



P. Holian photo



Caribbean Homes photo

Environmentalists were glad to see the special care the developers are taking to preserve the native trees around the building site of the Playa Lechi Sea Side Apartments. The artists conception (right) shows the native trees gone and imported palms substituted. Under new regulations a permit is necessary if old native trees are to be removed. Congratulations for setting a good example. ■ *Hettie Holian*

2011 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS
TOP 100
Caribbean Homes
BONAIRE

FIRST PLACE
Health of Marine Environment » Macro Life
Shore Diving » Overall Diving

SECOND PLACE
Overall Destination » Value for Diving Dollar
Beginner Diving » Snorkeling » Visibility
Marine Life

SCUBA DIVING



Picture Yourself With The Reporter In... Vermont

Frequent Bonaire visitors, 28 visits at last count, Joan and Alan Zale of Hartsdale, NY hold a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* in front of the Pulp Mill Bridge in Weybridge, VT on April 29, 2010. Joan and Alan, who own a condo at Sand Dollar, were visiting Burlington, VT where Joan had gone to school. They also enjoyed some site seeing throughout the state and, like they al-

ways do when they travel, packed a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with them. Vermont has over 100 covered bridges, most built in the 1800s. The one pictured here was built during a time frame of 1808-1820. It was rebuilt in 1980. During their trip Joan and Alan visited and photographed 14 of the bridges. ■

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, Dutch Caribbean. E-mail to: info@bonairereporter.com.

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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	Leave	PAX Cap	Line
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
		Noordam	0800	1700	1918	HAL
Fri	Mar-04	Grandeur of the Seas	0700	1600	2446	Celebrity
2 ships		Emerald Princess	1200	2000	3100	Princess
Mon	Mar-07	Zuiderdam	0700	1600	1918	HAL
Wed	Mar-09	Constellation	0800	1600	2034	Celebrity
Thu	Mar-10	Sea Princess	0800	1800	2016	Princess
2 ships	Mar 10-12	The World	0800	2400	500	Resident Sea
Sun-Tues	Thru Spring	Freewinds	0630	2200	150	Scintology

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Karnaval Schedule is on page 20

Wednesday February 23- Town Meeting hosted by candidate Clark Abraham at the 'Sentro di Bario Nort di Saliña' at 18:00. See Letters on page 9

Saturday, February 26 - Farmers' Market, 8 am-2 pm. Behind Go Green Natural Shop.

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

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

Sunday, March 13- Jong Bonaire Fun Walk & Bike Ride, 6am, at Jong Bonaire

March 18 & 19—BON DOET Day-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.

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

REGULAR EVENTS

- **Rooi Lamoenchi 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 Koeks for more information—796-7870.
- **Mondays**
 - **Soldachi Tours of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria, 717-6435-**best island tour value**
 - **Meet the Captain Night at Captain Don's Habitat Bar**— Get up close and personal with Bonaire's dive pioneer. The Captain will autograph your copy of his newest book *Reef Windows*.
- **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: 790-7001 and 796-4931

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesdays, 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs

above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 701-1100.

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10am. **Rincon**, Kaya C.D. Crestian, in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

Children's club, Saturdays, 5 pm, in Kralendijk
 Sunday School, Sundays, 4 pm, in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, Thursdays, at 8 pm, Kralendijk.

New Apostolic Church: Centro di Bario Nord Saliña, Sundays, 10 am. Services in Dutch. 700-0379 .

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

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

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

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

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

Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, 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.

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

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

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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(Continued from page 10)

though, I said, 'Let's go.' The place was too clean and too expensive. The islands before were much different. By then, I only had \$500 in my pocket and couldn't afford Bonaire for long. But the rest of the crew wanted to stay."

Days later, two of the Swedes met a local construction boss. He was in desperate need of workers to build a house in Belnem. The news was brought back to Örlen and the crew voted unanimously to do the six-month job. Work permits were arranged for over the weekend with Frits Goedgedrag, later to become governor of the Netherlands Antilles, signing the documents.

"Our group had an interesting set of skills. The crew consisted of a former Volvo test driver (Per Magnusson), a mechanic, an explosives expert, a postman, a bus driver and a chef. The chef and I were the only ones with actual construction experience. Let's just say that the first months, making the foundation of the house, was our 'school' for the team. We went on from there."

The sailors-turned-construction workers resided on Örlen during the project and frequented the bars at Karl's and Mona Lisa Restaurant during their time off. They also played football (soccer) and arranged for a match in the Kralendijk stadium against a group of Dutch electricians with whom they had worked. It was Holland vs. Sweden. Lelle does not recall who won that game, only that both teams had plenty to drink before and after the competition.

The house was completed in eight months and the crew then waited for a weather window for passage to the Panama Canal. It was time to continue their world journey. When Örlen finally departed, only five Swedes were aboard. One sailor had met a Dutch girl on Bonaire. They later wed and moved to Sweden. Another met an Ecuadorian girl. They were wed aboard the Örlen in a ceremony complete with a priest. The couple later left Bonaire and joined the crew in Panama. The third Swede to remain on island was Lelle. He too had also met a Dutch lady, Inge Berben, who had peaked his interest. Plus, the young seaman was not finished sailing the Caribbean.

"I joined the local Sunfish sailors club on Bonaire. It was much more active back then. I also windsurfed and was crew for some big races in Puerto Rico and the Trinidad-Tobago Race Week. One year

we won our class in the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta."

Davidsson continued to do small construction jobs specializing in window installations and traveled to work sites by bicycle. For nearly two years, he lived aboard a 28-foot sailboat that he had purchased from a Frenchman who had given up the cruising life. And then serendipity struck.

"There was a 46-foot teak sailboat that went aground on the south point of Bonaire. Both masts were damaged and there was a 1.5 square meter hole in the side. I went there to give advice on how to get the boat shipped to Curaçao for repair. But after looking at it, I decided I could fix it myself. I had changed planks in oak boats when I was 12 years old together with my uncle. So why not repair the boat myself? No one was doing yacht repair on Bonaire at that time."

Marine repair became Lelle's expertise and in 1997 he began Navegante, a boat repair and service company that still exists today. "That's the nice thing about life," reflects Lelle. "Everything offers opportunities."

One of those opportunities was meeting Inge Berben. They are married now and have an eight year old daughter, Sanne, and a five year old son, Luca.

And what was the fate of the Örlen, the boat that delivered Lelle to Bonaire? The old ketch completed its world voyage, but by the time it entered Swedish waters only two of the original crew were on board. Per Magnusson had sailed as far as Australia when his money ran out. He had enough left to fly home to Sweden. Per returned to work at Volvo as an engineer, but he longed for the island life. Eventually, he returned to Bonaire in 2008 and became partners with Lelle in Navegante.

"I still miss the sailing life," explains Lelle. "Once you start a business, vacation time is very limited. When I see a sailor swinging in a hammock on his boat in the bay, I'm jealous. But I'm a long term thinker and one day it will be my turn again to have my time on the water." ■

Story & photos by Patrick Holian



Patrick Holian is a writer and film journalist living on Bonaire.

Eco Dive (Continued from page 11)

Because of generous donations of Captain Don's Habitat and Rum Runners, 100% of drink ticket sales was forwarded to Eco Dive Bonaire.

Of course the whole dive was only possible with the help of many individuals and businesses. The eco divers thanked Captain Don's Habitat, Rum Runners, BonPhoto, Hoogenboom Kaag, Royal van Lent, BonFysio/BonBida, Flamingo Communications, Magic Print, Woodwind, vd Wansem, Go Green, Deaxo Croes, David Ray, Devon Clarke, Buz Smith, Bruce Schnaak, Zsuzsanna Pusztai, Elsmarie Beukeboom, Din Domacassé, Ron Gijzen, Sean Paton, Mabel Nava, Tina Lindeken, Hans & Magreet Faassen, Aad & Meta Dommisse, Dee Pederson, Djodjo Hilgers, Anne Zaat, Barbel Heusinkveld, Laura Stefani, Luca Bottura and of course everyone who donated to Eco Dive Bonaire

2010 and supported us with motivating words and/or their presence. ■ by Felix Faassen & Leo Hoogenboom

Credits: Photos Suzsanna Pusztai (Bon Photo Bonaire) underwater and Bruce Schnaak topside.



Felix & Leo surfacing after 620 minutes, 10 hours plus

Body Talk

DENGUE DILEMMA



Consider a hemisphere map where dengue occurs, and you will see that Bonaire is only one of many countries or islands with this problem. It is generally agreed that dengue has been here for about 12-15 years, but, as usual, very difficult (maybe impossible?) to get any statistics out of the necessary government departments.

What really concerns me is, firstly, that we have visitors to Bonaire on a weekly basis, and very few of them are aware of dengue. They contract the dengue virus, feel like hell, sometimes end up at a doctor or hospital, are often told "it's just the flu," or are sent for a blood test (which takes 5 days), and if dengue is confirmed they are told "there is no treatment except taking paracetamol." They eventually go back home with less than fond memories of Bonaire.

Secondly, for us living on Bonaire (and who have had dengue) the misconceptions about standing water, the mosquito and when it will bite you, the symptoms of the fever and the danger of contracting dengue a second or a third time should be a government driven project EVERY DENGUE SEASON. This is done in so many countries with dengue, and governments go as far as issuing fines to those people caught with standing water that could be a breeding ground for mosquitoes. No, I am not suggesting issuing fines on Bonaire, but I am urging each and every person on this island to know the facts about dengue, and to act on it. I believe that the mis-information about dengue from government level down, will keep dengue on Bonaire and will continue to wreak havoc during every rainy season!

It is not rocket science to realize that, because of the lack of treatment, the number of confirmed dengue cases (usually only when dengue has been confirmed by a blood test), is just the tip of the iceberg. If you have had dengue once, do you know what the effects would be should you get dengue a second or a third time? If you are shrugging your shoulders and think it unimportant to know, all I can say to you is that ignorance is far more powerful than logic.

Some of us are more susceptible to the infection than others, and this can be tested for through a urine sample. We can, before and during the "dengue season," with very small changes to our lifestyle, minimize our risk. I will go as far as saying I believe we can safeguard ourselves COMPLETELY against the risk.

We need a dedicated dengue task force, with a dengue call centre, testing people for susceptibility, to educate and to dispel myths. We can be in control and make our lives and the time visitors spend here far more pleasant. Visitors will not stop coming here because of dengue. Do people stop

visiting areas with yellow fever, malaria, Lyme disease etc.? Research has been ongoing for many years to develop a vaccine against dengue. Don't hold your breath. Each one of us can be a part of eradicating dengue.

World climate changes are affecting the dengue mosquito. This problem is not going to go away.

■ 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

Sudoku Solution

Puzzle on page 7

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

Bon Quiz (from page 7)

BonQuiz Answer

Q) Which Land House is this? Who inaugurated the renovations, in what year?

A) It's Land House Karpata. Her Majesty the Queen

Beatrix of the Netherlands inaugurated the renovated buildings in 1981.



Little Monty's Second Chance

Bonaire is a dry island full of cacti and baked earth and yet this rainy season has been tremendous. I had thought it was all over but today it's raining again. It's not quite cats and dogs but this morning's drizzle is a good thing. This, dear reader, is not because it will nourish the trees that feed the parrots (Loras) or serve some other much needed ecological purpose but because it means I can do nothing other than hide away indoors and finally share another wondrous tale of all things parrots. And so without further ado; before the sun breaks through; or I mention that like any good Hollywood blockbuster this story of joy, happiness, sadness and hope is based (loosely) on a true story; lets get to the story:

It was a sunny day and Mrs. Python like most Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrot ladies had had a busy few months. She quite frankly wanted nothing more than to sit in a calabash tree on a hillside, take it easy and enjoy the view. First there had been the nest prospecting over which Mr. and Mrs. Python had nearly fallen out, and this was before the breeding season had even begun. This is because instead of wanting to enthusiastically view all the possible nest sites with his loved one Mr. Python had offered to sit and wait so that Mrs. Python could continue doing her perusing without dragging him along. That of course, as any lady parrot would appreciate, is not the point, because at any moment she might want his opinion on a particular nest. And so it was that together they looked at all the available options in the area before Mrs. Python finally decided they would do best to go back and settle on the first nest she had looked at. One must point out that we highly disciplined and conservative conservationists of course do not normally anthropomorphize and name the parrots we are here to serve. With the exception of Monty whom at this point in the story is not even an egg yet, these names are entirely fictitious.

After a short but colorful period of nest/

home improvement, copious copulation and bit of warfare with the neighbors that any good Amazon parrot would have been proud of, Mrs. Python was getting clucky. In a process that can best be described by any Mr. Parrot as eye watering, Mrs. Python went about the business of laying her clutch of eggs. In a little over a week she had produced four beautiful white eggs, by which point Mrs. Python was ever so grateful to not be a kiwi. The kiwi of course dear reader, lays the largest egg in relation to it's body size of any bird.

Next was incubation which Mrs. Python has always said is a bit like a month of sailing, that is: mostly boring with a few passing moments of terror. Warming eggs, warming eggs, warming eggs, "is that an introduced mammalian predator (cat) I hear climbing the nest tree about to come and eat me", "ah, no", warming eggs, warming eggs, warming eggs. But soon enough incubation concluded and four tiny pink bundles of joy emerged, one of which would later become known as Monty.

Over the next two months Mr. and Mrs. Python nurtured their wonderful chicks. The chicks themselves made a marvelous transition from helpless, eyeless, little pink things to stunning and sleek fledglings, doing all that growing with such incredible efficiency. Monty was loved by his family. His parents were generous with food but also with discipline as is so rarely the case these days, and so he and his siblings were neither cantankerous nor tempestuous young parrots. Even during the brief starvation period that Mr. and Mrs. Python had enforced in order to draw their young family out of their nest, the chicks maintained their good manners. And so one by one the young Pythons emerged and entered the big wide world. If the last 3 months had been a strain for Mrs. Python then those first weeks when the chicks were fledging would be at a least a strain and a half, if not two strains. She and Mr. Python found themselves flying up and down their happy little valley in endless search and rescue missions as they tried to locate their various offspring. Over time the fledglings' proficiency improved and they made fewer and fewer crash landings into random trees. It was at this time, when the youngest of their four had been out of the nest two weeks, when Mrs. Python herself was doing the wanting of nothing more, with which we started this story.

It was a sunny day and Mrs. Python decided the time had come when her new family was ready to venture into the local village where juicy mangos and other exotic



Young lora fledglings cavorting and screaming with excitement

fruits were to be found on garden trees, where once there had been a diverse range of Bonairean trees. Together Mr. and Mrs. Python and their offspring and the neighbors and their offspring flew south in a more or less orderly flock. Before crashing into a mango tree the group first alighted on a haphazard collection of telegraph wires where all could be counted and accounted for. Thankfully the Pythons and the neighbors had all made it. The parents felt relief and satisfaction. The young fledglings cavorted and screamed with their excitement even though they weren't the least bit interested in the juicy mangos, for they were still being fed by their parents. Suddenly the parrots became aware of a strange animal beneath them on the ground. The parents realized with horror there was danger and they took their turn to scream, urging their young families to fly. Before he could open his wings poor Monty had been knocked about the head with a big stick and he fell from the wire to the ground. ■

Photos & story by Sam Williams

Clearly Monty hasn't yet had his second chance. Worry not, dear reader. The concluding part of this incredible story will be regaled in the next Bonaire Reporter, but for now the story ends on this sad cliff hanger (and that last bit really is true).

Conservationist Sam Williams has been involved with Bonaire's loras for over 7 years and he recently founded of Echo. Find out more www.echobonaire.org



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Jupiter and the Brightest Star in the Night Sky

Although there are many bright objects in the heavens in early evening, three of the brightest are there for you to enjoy right now. One of them holds the distinction of being the brightest star visible from Earth, other than our Sun, and the other is the biggest, and almost the brightest, planet in our solar system. And of course

you know all about the Moon. Let me show you:

About an hour after sunset this week face west. Shining brilliantly not far above the horizon is the biggest of all the planets, Jupiter, which will set about an hour after the Sun, so get out early to catch it. Then turn and look into the southeast where you will see the brightest constellation of them all, Orion the hunter. Two bright stars mark his shoulders, two bright stars mark his knees and three not quite as bright stars equally spaced in a row mark his belt.

And if you shoot an imaginary arrow through Orion's belt down to his left you will see a dazzling star which literally outshines all the stars in the heavens as seen from Earth, the star Sirius which marks the nose of Orion's faithful companion, Canis Major, the great dog. In fact we can make a very nice stick figure of a dog by drawing lines between Canis Major's stars with Sirius marking his nose. Now although Sirius is nicknamed the "dog star," I personally prefer the name the ancient Egyptians gave it, the "Soul of Isis." But whatever name it has enjoyed for the past several thousand years, it is still the brightest and most jewel-like star we can see.

But there's a catch here because even though Sirius is the brightest star we can see with the naked eye it is by no means



intrinsically the brightest. It only appears to be the brightest because it is so close to us. In fact, it is the fifth closest star to planet Earth, not quite nine light years away which, although nearby cosmically speaking, is still over half a million times farther away from us than our closest star the Sun. And we can see many stars which are hundreds of times larger than Sirius, like Orion's red shoulder star, Betelgeuse.

Even so Sirius makes our own star, the Sun, look rather puny by comparison because while our Sun is almost one million miles in diameter, Sirius is almost twice as wide. And while our Sun burns a relatively cool 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit at its surface, Sirius blazes a fierce 17,000 degrees Fahrenheit, which makes it shine 25 times brighter than our Sun. Wow! Thank heaven it isn't as close to us as our Sun or we'd all have to wear sunglasses to get to sleep at night.

At any rate, if you watch Sirius when it is close to the horizon it will look even more dazzling than when it's up high. In fact it will flash and sparkle and change brilliant colors like a cosmic jewel unlike any other star in the heavens. So get outside to see Jupiter in the west after sunset and then turn to the southeast and enjoy Sirius the dog star and the ancient soul of Isis. It will dazzle you! ■

Ed Romano



Café Astrology Feb.-Mar. 2011

Aries (March 20, April 20) : You are valuing your privacy more than ever, dear Aries. You are certainly more withdrawn than usual, taking extra time to rest and reflect. This is necessary right now, and if you don't do it on your own, the cosmos might force you to do so! Nevertheless, friends are mostly supportive. Coming to the aid of a partner feels good now, as does being in on a special secret.

Taurus (April 20, May 21) : Work is demanding this month, dear Taurus, but also very rewarding. Friends are especially helpful and enjoyable to be around. You are likely to find that by networking and paying attention to people in the same career field as you, or to those with similar interests, you are able to come up with some excellent ideas for your own life.

Gemini (May 21, June 21) : Career and professional matters are strong, rewarding, and exciting this month, dear Gemini. While you cannot say your career is carefree these days, as challenges are also part of the experience, you are bound to find many opportunities to grow and develop on a professional level this month and beyond.

Cancer (June 22, July 22) : Plenty of career developments are in the works, dear Cancer, as you take the time to re-assess your professional life and responsibilities. In March and April, matters will begin to move quickly, with a raise a definite possibility; but now is the time for analysis rather than action. Love has been tricky recently, and continues to baffle you in February.

Leo (July 23, August 23) : Your popularity runs high this month, dear Leo, even though you continue to keep some emotional distance. Those close to you, however, are likely to sense that you are not as enthusiastic and direct as usual, but it's a necessary period in which you take a step back and analyze what works for you and what doesn't.

Virgo (August 23, September 23) : February is an excellent month for your relationships, dear Virgo. You are especially willing to please, and partners (or potential ones) are attentive and romantic. Your openness to partnering and tolerance of others are qualities that will help improve your relationships many times over this year. Opportunities to connect and for a happy, productive relationship are abundant.

Libra (September 23, October 23) : While life has been filled with pressures and perhaps setbacks for many of you recently, dear Libra, the first three weeks of February bring great opportunities for recreation and enjoyment. Romantic new beginnings are possible, but keep your eye out for deception or self-deception. Complications with a partner or

friend continue this month, and the only thing to do now is to give them space. If you find that you're only going through the motions, let time pass before making any decisions.

Scorpio (October 23, November 22) : Challenges with work continue and are unlikely to clear up until mid-March, dear Scorpio. While some of you are encountering difficult circumstances on the job, most of you are experiencing loss of enthusiasm within. You might be going through the motions for the time being. You are sure to regain energy and zeal, as well as a sense of direction, next month.

Sagittarius (November 22, December 21) : You are paying much more attention to personal matters than you are to professional and social endeavors these days, dear Sagittarius. The focus is on your feelings, intuition, and comfort rather than what the rest of the world expects of you. The first two weeks of February are exceptionally busy for paperwork, errands, learning, and intellectual projects. Family and those close to home are especially helpful to you in February. A friend might be disapproving or difficult, but pay attention--he or she might have a good point.

Capricorn (December 21, January 20) : A strong focus on practical matters this month keeps your mind on security and comfort matters for the most part, dear Capricorn. At the same time, you have so many ideas for the future that it's hard to settle on just one. This is not the best month for presenting or implementing your ideas, however, because they require more work, refinement, and thought.

Aquarius (January 20, February 19) : February is a strong month for finances and personal possessions for you, dear Aquarius.. Others are really in your corner this month, paying you much attention. While relationship problems are still part of your life, those of you involved in casual relationships are finding many opportunities to enjoy yourselves and singles are not lacking for attention, either. This is a strong period for creative projects and endeavors.

Pisces (February 19, March 20) : February starts slowly but quickly picks up speed mid-way through, dear Pisces, when you'll experience lots of activity and attention. Gifts, refunds, or rebates may be forthcoming now. Although it's a strong time for career and business opportunities in general, there are some snags to deal with when it comes to work schedules. You might also be losing some enthusiasm for work, and going through the motions, which should change by mid-March. *By Annie*

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Karnaval Winners



Top winners in the 2011 childrens' Queen, Prince and Pancho competition with the event's organizers

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Prens i Pancho

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Johnrith Anthony Pancho solo
1e Finalista: Yordan Pourier Prins Sabi
Henbertico Winklaar Pancho Bobo

Trahe Karnavalesko Luhoso: Irlenska Martinus

Reina Popular: Irlenska Martinus
Reina Amistat: Monixarantxa Margarita

Reina Hubenil:

Ganadó: Sue-Jani Winklaar
1e Finalista Shardeily Winklaar
2o Finalista Arsheline Martis
Trahe Karnavalesko Original: Sue-Jani Winklaar
Trahe Karnavalesko Luhoso: Shardely Winklaar
Reina Popular: Shardely Winklaar
Reina Amistat: Sue-Jani Winklaar

Reina Infantil:

Ganadó: Irlenska Martinus
1e Finalista Monixarantxa Margarita
2o Finalista Marialuisa Troncon
Trahe Karnavalesko Original: Irlenska Martinus



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24 feb	19.00or-00.00or	Ban topa Reina Prens i Pancho	Parke Wilhelmina
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 mart	19.00or-00.00or	Teenersparade	Stadion Playa
3 mart	20.00or-00.00or	Jump-Up Rincon	Entrada di Rincon
4 mart	09.00or-13.00or 20.00or-03.00or	Marcha Skol Playa Jump In "Ban topa Karnval" (Sporthall)	Stadion Sporthall
5 mart	15.00or	Parada Grandi Rincon	Stadion Rincon
6 mart	13.00or	Gran Parada	Kaya Korona (SGB)
7 mart	18.00or-22.00or	Marcha di Despedida Hubenil	Stadion Playa
8 mart	19.00or-00.30or	Despedida / Kimamentu di Rei Momo	Stadion Playa
20 mart	20.00or-00.00or	Entrega di Premio	

Robert Sanchez Presidente Fundashon Karnaval Bonaire