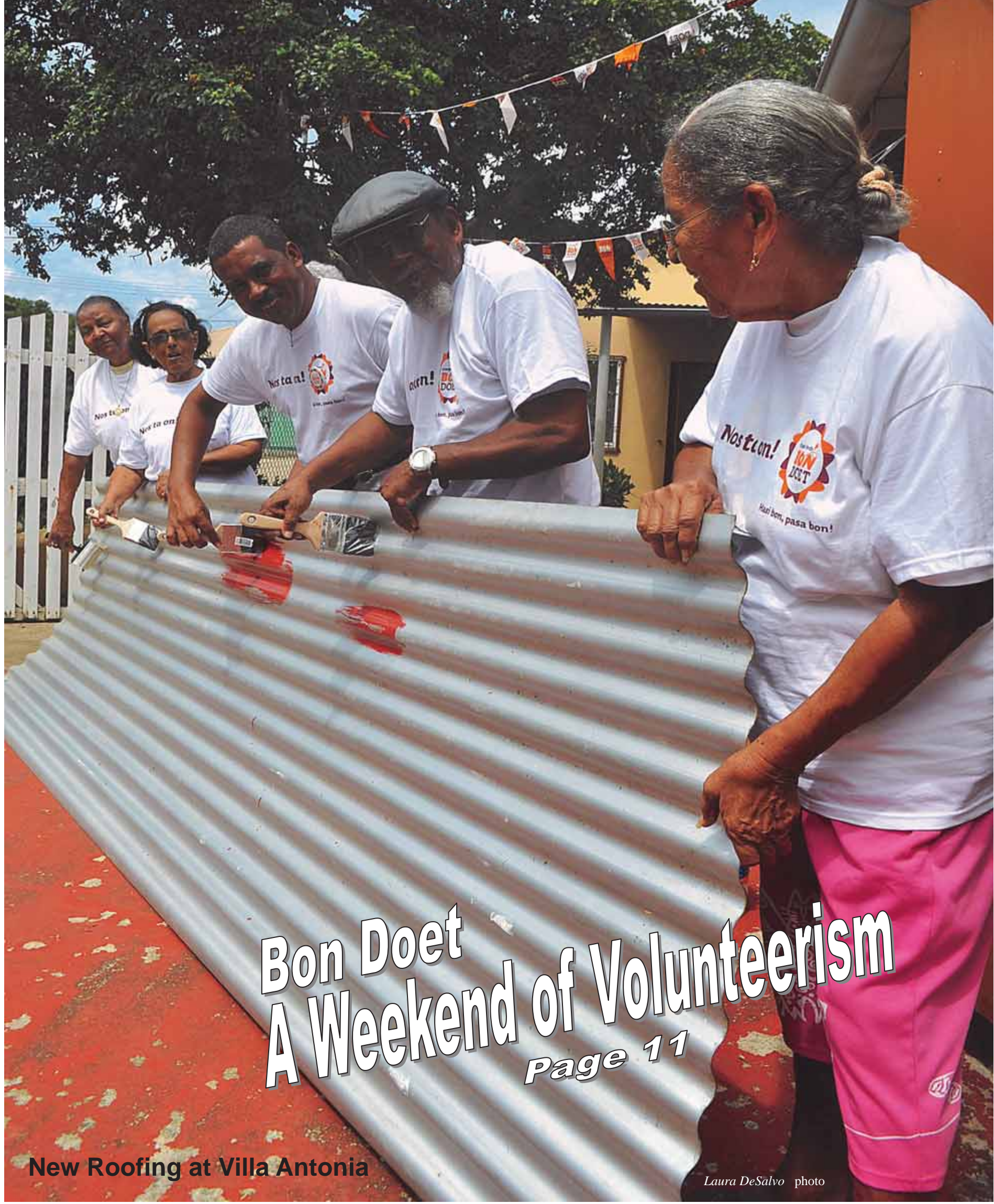


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**BONAIRE** March 25- April 8, 2011, Year 18, Issue 7  
**The REPORTER**  
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**Bon Doet  
A Weekend of Volunteerism**  
Page 11

**New Roofing at Villa Antonia**

Laura DeSalvo photo

# Flotsam and Jetsam

## BOINAIRE The REPORTER



Drawing © Piet Boon Holdings BV,

**R**estaurant news: There are changes coming that will make Bonaire's restaurants, already known for great food, more interesting than ever. **Donna and Georgio's** waterfront Italian restaurant has been sold, we hear, to Kim van Dijk and Rick van den Broek who have run the intimate **Yacht Club Restaurant** since 2008. The top echelon restaurant **Capriccio** will move a few blocks south to a new building when it's completed. That will mean that four restaurants, Yacht Club, Capriccio, La Luna and Bamboo will be just a few steps from one another at the south end of the waterfront Promenade.

Well known local restaurateur Lucille Martijn is back with her newest restaurant, "**Bravo**," located on the dirt side road next to Tiara Air (Kaya Libertador S. Bolivar). Bravo's intimate but sophisticated dining offers lunch and dinner, including Lucille's signature Thai dishes. Lunch: 12 to 2 pm. Dinner: 6 to 10 pm. Open Tuesday through Saturday. Tel. 786-5085.

And at the northern end of town a spectacular new beach restaurant complex, named the **Spice Beach Club**, will be built at Eden Beach designed by Dutchman Piet Boon. They estimate a June opening. Check it out at <http://www.spicebonaire.com/index.php/the-future.html>

► **WILLEMSTAD--InselAir** will score a competitive advantage when it enters into an interline agreement with **KLM** on **March 27**. Passengers carrying a KLM ticket can also fly to all InselAir destinations. Passengers will be transported on one ticket with automatic baggage transfer via InselAir's hubs in Curaçao and St. Maarten. InselAir is in



Extra photo

The new Bonaire Island Council from left to right: **Nery Gonzalez, Burney El Hage, Milena Winklaar, Maritsa Silberie, Gezaghebber Thodé, Robby Beukenboom, Benito Dirksz.** Back row: **Jeffrey Levenstone, Clark Abraham, Nolly Oleana and Michiel Bijkerk.**

► **The trend of turning out the incumbent party so popular in the US and Holland elections was continued in Bonaire.** Last week the "Union Patriotiko Boneriano" (UPB-green) party with its four seats on the Island Council was displaced by a coalition of three parties, two of them new. The Democratic Party (DP-red) with three seats in Bonaire's newly elected Island Council (see story on facing page) joined with the "Movimentu Boneiru Liber" (MBL-blue) and "Pro Hustisia i Union" (PHU-white) - each with one seat to make a coalition to govern Bonaire.

The three cooperating parties signed a protocol of confidence titled "Result Counts." It says that they will name four Executive Council members who will be professionals with the knowledge to run the departments they will head and preferably not be tied to local politics. DP, MBL and PHU stated that the people voted for change and that the island needs stability for the next four years. They give priority to "development of a balanced economy in which people come first, there is transparency in Government, corruption is eliminated - all with the goal of stimulating the well-being and progress of the Bonaire people." There was no specific mention of environmental conservation.

Each of the three parties will nominate two professionals then together decide on which candidates will become commissioners. The commissioners will refer all major and/or delicate decisions back to the coalition factions who will meet every week to seek consensus.

the process of acquiring three Fokker 50 (50-seater Turbo-props) to enhance connections and increase the flights to existing and new destinations.

► **WILLEMSTAD--**The 2011 budgets for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba have been approved by Dutch Minister of Inter-

national Affairs and Kingdom Relations Piet Hien Donner based on the Financial Act for the three public entities. The three Island Councils were informed of the approval in a letter dated March 8.

The approved budget for Bonaire amounts to more than

\$49.4 million; for St. Eustatius more than \$12.4 million and Saba almost \$7.3 million.

These 2011 budgets are the first ones to be "balanced" as required by new rules according to a Financial Council press release.

(Continued on page 8)

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# Bonaire Goes Red-White and Blue

## And In The Netherlands

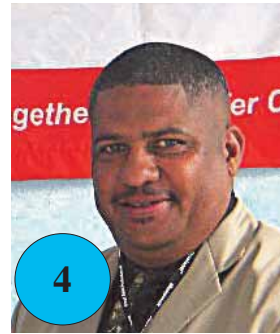
Bonaire's two new political parties joined with the veteran Demokrats to form a new government. The red Demokrats won three Island Council seats and when combined with support from the white Justice and Union party (PHU) and blue Bonaire Free Movement (MBL) form a majority on the nine-seat council. This put the four members of the UPB (green) party in the opposition seats. The new Island Council members were sworn in on March 10.

The elected officials who will represent the people of Bonaire on the Island Council are (in alphabetical order):

1. Clark Abraham- PDB (Demokrat-Red)
2. Robby Beukenboom- PDB (Demokrat-Red)
3. Michiel Bijkerk- PHU (Party for Justice and Unity-White)
4. Benito Dirksz- MBL (Bonaire Free Movement-Blue)
5. Burney El Hage-UPB (Patriotiko-Green)
6. Jeffery Levenstone -UPB (Patriotiko-Green)
7. Nolly Oleana -PDB (Demokrat-Red)
8. Maritza Silberie -UPB (Patriotiko-Green)
9. Melena Winklaar -UPB (Patriotiko-Green)

The Island Governor, Glenn Thodé, and Island Secretary, Nery Gonzales, complete the membership of the Council (see group photo on facing page).

For the first time in 10 years there is no Rincon resident on the Council. James Kroon, the traditional UPB Rincon standard bearer, did not wish to serve on the council for personal reasons. Beukenboom, Oleana and Silberie have served on the Council in previous years. All the others are first timers but all have some government experience. At press time the Council has not selected the individuals who will form the new Executive Council. ■ G.D.



The Dutch Constitution will be changed so that, in the future, members of the Island Councils of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba will be eligible to vote in the Dutch Senate (First Chamber) elections. Last Friday, the Council of Ministers approved the change proposal of Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations Piet Hein Donner. Residents of the islands already have voting rights in the Lower House of Parliament - the Second Chamber - but are currently not represented in First Chamber elections.

It will take some time before this happens. A change of the Dutch Constitution is a procedure, requiring a majority in both Chambers of the Dutch Parliament, then again approved by a two-thirds majority in the Second Chamber. The amendment may then only be voted upon after elections have been held. ■ G.D.



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# On the Island Since... 2003 - Angel Gonzales-Muñoz

“I was born in Trujillo, Peru – 500 kilometers up north from Lima – for me the best place in Peru. My family was middle class, merchants, at first in food, later on in transport services. I was the first grandchild of my grandparents; we all lived in the same house which is customary in Latin America. We had a huge store; we were selling food products, and I started ‘helping’ my grandparents at a very young age. For Christmas my father and grandfather would import toys from Asia and I could play with all of them, but when Christmas finally arrived all the toys were sold and I got a simple little present!

Growing up in this environment I learned a lot about commerce. After high school I immigrated to Argentina to study chemical engineering at Cujo University in Mendoza City. While I was studying I also worked, selling Peruvian handicrafts. My grand-

father had taught me to be an entrepreneur. I played the guitar and sang Peruvian waltzes in the Argentinean restaurants and that’s how I maintained myself. I didn’t have to ask my parents for money. When I left Peru to go to Argentina I had met my future wife, Maria. She was 15 years old at the time. There was no internet; we wrote letters. Two years later, in 1979, Argentina went through hard political times as the military took over the power and there was lots of violence. So, I returned to my country and when I came back I studied for four more years at the university in Trujillo.

During my study I opened a restaurant across from the university. I could manage both things well. After I graduated I went to Lima alone and I started to work for SGS, a Swiss Company in inspection, verification, testing and certification services to ensure that products, services and

systems meet quality, safety and performance standards. SGS checked on every little thing Peru was exporting. In this job I got to know all of the Peruvian territory, frontiers and ports. I traveled constantly across the country. I also met all of the Peruvian artisans, the original handcraft makers of my country as I did quality control on all their products as well.

One year before I graduated, Maria and I decided to live together – no marriage, because I was still a student and had nothing to offer. After two years our son, Angel Eduardo, was born and two years later our daughter, Kejla. We got married when our son was six years old. My wife Maria has the best character in the world; she takes care of everything and everybody with great love.

In 1991 a very bad economic crisis hit Peru. Fujimori had en-



Maria and Angel in their shop just off Kaya Grandi

tered as president in 1990 and introduced lots of economic reforms to save Peru economically. One of the measures they took was to end the contract with the SGS Company. Then I had to make a very important decision together with Maria. I would immigrate to Japan – only me – because I had had an invitation to go and work there.

I moved to the city of Himeji, in the south of Japan, to work in the leather industry at the chemical department of a leather company. After one year I was teach-

ing Spanish – off working hours – to Japanese people. They are a very methodical people. When I was in Japan for two years I learned to speak Japanese very well. One month a year I went home to my wife and children. I stayed in Japan for seven years.

Then I came back to Lima, where my family had moved four years earlier. I spoke with my wife and we agreed it had been enough. I had achieved my goals and wanted to return to my coun-

(Continued on page 5)

**“... personally I think all changes are good because it wakes people up from their lethargy. Many people are afraid of changes, but it is necessary.”**

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**On the Island Since**  
(continued from page 4)

try. My kids were big. I didn't want to work in my profession anymore, because compared to Japan, the salaries were low."

Angel is an incredible man; very bright and friendly and extremely hard working. He and his wife gave up so much without a complaint to achieve their goal and together they made it happen. "I wanted to go into business. I already knew a lot about the Peruvian handicraft business and had connections with many, many people working in the field. I decided to set up a whole new project in the Netherlands Antilles, starting with Aruba. Now there are more than 5,000 Peruvians living on Aruba. I went with lots of merchandise – Peruvian handicrafts – to sell to the shops and with typical Peruvian food supplies to sell to the Peruvians on Aruba. At the time – we're talking about 2001 – there was a direct flight Lima-Aruba, but it changed by the end of 2002. KLM decided to start a direct flight Lima-Bonaire.

I came and fell in love with the island. But I still had my business in Aruba, so I flew all the time Lima-Bonaire-Aruba. With the second flight to Bonaire I'd introduced my petition to have a company here and after one year I got the permit. I wanted to do market research to find out what the tour-

ist sector was like, and when I met three ladies who were selling local handicrafts at the Wilhelmina Plaza market which was then held once a month, I began to work with them. I found out that tourists were looking for original products, made on Bonaire. During this time more cruise ships were coming and more people were selling at the cruise ship market. It grew and so we formed an association of artisans.

Now, with the help of CKB, we are Bonaire Arts and Crafts Association. One of our goals is to give all people the chance to create original handicrafts made on Bonaire because one of the rules of the association is that to be part of the market, 50% of the merchandise must be originally from here; it has to be made on Bonaire. The market association is planning to get masters in handicraft techniques from the States and Peru to teach the local people and to see what the island does provide us with to make local handicrafts. So, that's what I do too.

Every year I go to Peru to the ateliers to learn to make handicrafts from different materials. My wife makes jewelry; we work with glass, aluminum, all kinds of different materials. I opened the shop in 2007 and three months later Maria joined me. We're located in the small street across the street from the shopping mall

in Kaya Grandi. More and more people are discovering the shop and they like what we're selling because it's original and handmade. When I knew what kinds of products the tourists were looking for I founded a company with my kids in Peru to produce handicrafts with Peruvian techniques but with our own Caribbean designs. At the moment we are completely concentrated on Bonaire, but this year my son is also going to open a similar shop on Curaçao. He's finishing university this year. Next year my daughter will finish her studies and we're thinking of opening another store on one of the other islands. So, this is our family project in the Caribbean and I've told my kids 'The sky is the limit!'

I love Bonaire very much; it's a land of many opportunities. Sometimes I go to the beach with my guitar, a bottle of wine and my wife to see the sunset. Oh yes, I am really happy here! Now with the changes... personally I think all changes are good because it wakes people up from their lethargy. Many people are afraid of changes, but it is necessary." He laughs. "I can tell from experience!

We have a large Peruvian community on Bonaire, about 2,000 people. They work very hard and help their families in Peru. Our organization 'Comunidad Peru-



Maria and Angel in front of the shop

ana Bonaire' – the president is Gilberto Sanchez – helps Peruvian people here in all sorts of ways and of course we also organize sports events and festivals, like on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July, our Independence Day. The government gave us a terrain next to the stadium where we are building our own 'Peruvian Bonairean Cultural Center' with amongst other things a dance school, a library and hopefully a consulate. Peruvians are entrepreneurs by birth. They don't run away from hard work. It runs in the blood, *si señor!* We're always looking for a way to do better and that's why so many of us leave our country.

I am 52 years old now and I always have nostalgia. My land is always calling me... I miss our customs, our music, our family, *la cumbia, el sevice* and *la causa*...

But still... in spite of everything – I feel Bonaire is my home. When I am in Peru – big cities, the traffic and too many people - I miss the island after two weeks. I miss the tranquility and the peace I have here." ■

Story & photos  
by  
Greta Kooistra



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# Jong Bonaire South Island Walk/Ride **Envirowatch**



*It was still dark when Paco Veeris gave the route directions and the riders and walkers signed in.*



*A beautiful Bonaire dawn breaks behind these walkers as they pass the airport*



**How did this flamingo die?**  
Look below



**This morning, March 13, there are five dead flamingos lying at the roadside on Kaya van Eps, the coast-to-coast road in Belnem.** Not a good way for Bonaire to feature the bird that is synonymous with the island.

The birds die from colliding with the high tension wires. More large red balls to hang on the wires and warn the birds are needed. **Not providing sufficient warnings is an environmental crime of omission.** Government agencies please take action immediately. ■ G.D.

Few things warm the spirit more than a beautiful daybreak. Participants in the March 13<sup>th</sup> annual Jong Bonaire Ride/Walk event enjoyed the experience.

There were 150 participants in the event, 59 on bikes and 91 on foot. According

On bikes the finishing order was:

1st **Luigi Eybrecht** (1 hour 43 minutes)

2nd **Gijs Vermeulen** (1 hour 43 minutes)

3rd **Percy Prudencia** (1 hour 51 minutes)

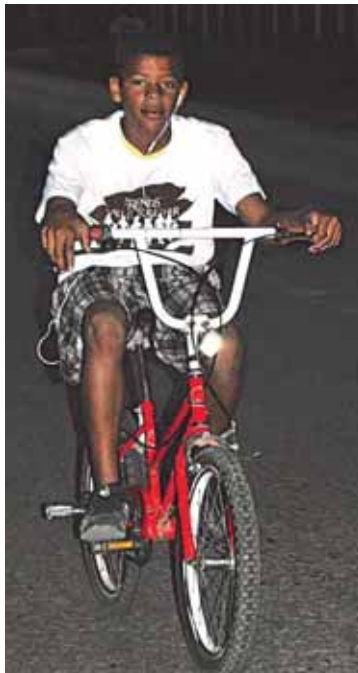
On foot the finishing order was:

1st **Nazario Alberto** (2 hours 41 minutes)

2nd **Roy Martines** (3 hours 4 minutes)

3rd **Martinus Pikeri** (3 hours 25 minutes)

The youngest participant was **Giani el Hage**, she was 8 years



*Even super cool stunt bikes made the ride*

old and took the bike route in 3 hours and 40 minutes.



*The Rannou family mostly rode together until Papa took the long route*

All of the Jong Bonaire staff were involved to make this event a big success.



*Sandy and Pat were among the first to finish*

**Jong Bonaire's next fundraising event is a car wash in its new parking lot on May 7.**  
*Malou Huiskamp/ G.D*

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# BONAIREAN VOICES

“YOUR JOB SHULD BE YOUR HOBBY”

These are words from someone very well known in our community, Mrs. Josselyn Lissette Rijna (49), nicknamed Liz. She is a mother, teacher, business woman, a self aware person who knows what she wants. Liz tells us about her life as a young girl and the role that her family’s businesses made in her life.

“Since I was very young I wanted to become a nursery school teacher. In Curaçao every four years there is an opportunity to study this special education. Unfortunately, I missed that year and I would have had to wait four more years. My parents didn’t want me to go to Holland because I was still young, 14 years, and I was very afraid to live in foreign country all by myself.

My father opened the restaurant Den Laman. Since I was small my family was in all kinds of business, especially HORECA. They owned La Sonrisa, Hotel Rochaline, and Mona Lisa, to mention just a few. I grew up working at the Rochaline Restaurant and working with my father wasn’t difficult. By the time I was 15 I knew how to serve a table and my father was very proud that I could help the family.

When Mrs. Elsmarie Beukenboom (director of STINAPA) graduated as a hotel manager in the States she came back to help the family business at Hotel Rochaline. She encouraged my parents to send me to study hotel management in Aruba and then in the States. In Aruba while I was in school I participated in different competitions and won. One was for best bartender, thanks to my father who taught me so much and my eagerness to learn. When I finished in Aruba, I went to the States. My father traveled with me and helped me get settled. He spent a lot of money furnishing my apartment, and he said when he was done that he knew that this is what I wanted. He spent a lot of money, knowing that after he left I wouldn’t have any worries about material matters and that I could study to achieve what I really wanted. So I had to do my part: **study!**

I specialized in major and minor hotel management business. I graduated in 1984 and got to work in a Walt Disney chain restaurant for a year as a supervisor. In 1985 I came back to Bonaire and managed Den Laman for three years, then I went to Curaçao to work for five years, then returned to Bonaire.



After managing Den Laman for three years I reached a low point with the death of my father, knowing that he wasn’t there. To have to get up and go to work was tiresome especially when you have a youngster. I miss my father so much; I had to sell the hotel and restaurant. Then I decided to do what I always dreamed of: be a school teacher.

With my education I can become anything I want. I love HORECA so I started teaching hospitality at SGB (*School Gemeenschap Bonaire*) high school. For nine years I’ve been a teacher at SGB and I love my job. Unfortunately there are some children who choose hospitality because they don’t have any other choice. This used to irritate me so much because some of these kids don’t have a passion for cooking or even bartending. They struggle to finish the year and when they’re done they choose a completely different direction to work in, even in construction or something else. Some who do have the passion and the vision to be a chef or a bartender have parents who don’t encourage them. Or when they are done with their education, they don’t have enough money to continue their education or to open a restaurant. Others decide to go to Holland to follow a higher education in tourism/recreation or baking, but if they don’t have the support of their parents or if the parents are not interested in their study, they fail, and without finishing they engage in other matters that don’t have anything to

do with their education. Parents are very important in their children’s education, from the beginning to the end. Thanks to Elsmarie who convinced my parents about my education and my father who encouraged me and was there for me all the time. Without him I couldn’t have made it.

Another key role in my life that really gave me the push to go was that my family ran several businesses and I learned from an

early age how to work in hotels and restaurants. For kids who have parents who run a business it’s easier to cultivate that passion for HORECA. In the past students began to study HORECA at 20, but today they are too young, 14 years. At that age it’s hard to tell their future in hospitality. After three years you really can say whether the student is ready for HORECA or not. Kids need to set goals and gather more information about what they want to be. Parents need to be a mirror for their children. If the parents are partying, drinking and having fun all the time without thinking about their children, their children will think that’s the kind of life they have to live. Lots of parents live

their lives, forgetting about their children. They need to give their child full attention, help them achieve their diploma, finish their education and work for what they like. Without the support of a parent or even a friend the child can neglect its future. Their environment can determine what they become. So always remember this: “Your Job Should Be Your Hobby.”

Very interesting points for parents and kids to pay attention to. The future of Bonaire is in your hands. Without Hospitality, there will be no Tourism. ■

Story & Photo by Siomara Albertus.

Send your comments to *The Bonaire Reporter*, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, or email [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com).



## BonQuiz #48



### OIL DUMP TANKS

In the mid 90s used and dirty oil was being dumped in the water hole on the peninsula at Sorobon. This assault on the environment was brought to the attention of the government by the *Amigoe di Tera* (Friends of the Earth) Foundation. I had brought several island government officials there in the hope that this problem would be resolved, but nothing happened until I acquired the position at SELIBON NV as their PR representative. *Amigoe di Tera* board members drew up a dump tank design and presented it as a potential project for SELIBON to take on. It is satisfying to note that at the present time besides the several tanks in place in strategic areas around Bonaire, a law was passed prohibiting the dumping of diesel, kitchen oil and other damaging oils anywhere on Bonaire.

**Q) Where are these oil tanks located?**

Answers 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:

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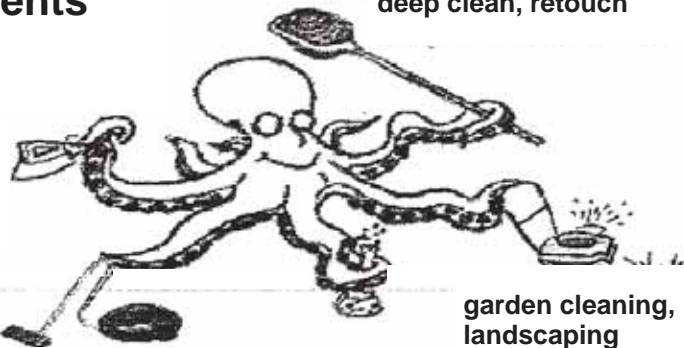
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**EARTH HOUR - TOURISM CORPORATION BONAIRE - WERELD NATUUR FONDS - MANGAZINA DI REI  
TURN OFF YOUR LIGHTS ON MARCH 26TH, 2011 FROM 8.30 PM TILL 9.30PM!**

In connection with EARTH HOUR, TCB together with Mangazina di Rei would like to invite you to be part of a great charity event to keep our culture alive for future generations!

**Event : Unplugged Candlelight Concert  
Date : Saturday, March 26th, 2011**

**Place: Mangazina di Rei  
Time: 6PM till 10PM**



*Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)*

► **The HAGUE--The Dutch Government is preparing a nature policy plan for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba for the 2012-2017 time frame.** The policy plan will include the goals for nature and landscape, priorities that require action and a list of national parks.

In the plan it will also be determined whether additional protective measures are needed for nature and habitat on the three islands. The plan will be drafted in close consultation with the local governments, park managers and other nature protection organizations.

► **Don't miss the performance of internationally acclaimed piano soloist Ana Karina Alamo, at the Plaza Resort's Crique Hall on Saturday, April 16 at 7:30 pm.** The young Venezuelan pianist has performed with renowned orchestras in various venues in Europe as well as in prestigious halls in North and South America. A child prodigy, Ana Karina Alamo performed before an audience of 500 at the tender age of six. In her Bonaire concert Ms. Alamo will interpret romantic works by Beethoven, Schu-



mann and Scriabin, and she will also perform works by lesser known but powerful South American composers. There will be more information about this upcoming concert in the next edition of *The Reporter*.

► **Lucia Beck took over as the new head of Communication for the RCN**

(Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland -Crown Services) on March 21 from the temporary head, Friso Fennema,

who immeasurably improved press relations since his arrival 10 months ago. Ms Beck will be responsible for the press relations and communication policy for the Dutch government and the Kingdom Representative on the BES islands. Alida Francis will fill this role in the absence of Beck. Fennema returns to resume work at the Ministry for Infrastructure and Environment in The Hague.

He said of his replacement, "With Beck we have someone onboard who grew up in the Caribbean region and who therefore understands the culture and language of the people. She studied PR and Marketing at the college level and worked afterwards as



Lucia and Friso

a journalist and in communications in the US and Singapore, before she came to Bonaire 16 years ago. Here she gained experience at Information and Protocol of the Island Government and was the Marketing and PR coordinator for government NVs."



► **Two Bonaire residents were recently awarded New Yoga Teaching Certification. Don and Desiree Seaver** (photo above) graduated from Kripalu's 200-hour yoga teachers certification and are now sharing their new knowledge, instruction and insights with students in the yoga classes they are teaching at **Bonaire Basics and Bon Bida Spa and Gym.**

Both Desiree and Don are well known to many Bonaire residents and visitors. Desiree, who had a salon in Kralendijk for many years, continues to offer her on-site haircutting service, and is also known for her unique jewelry and artwork. Don is

prominent among both the windsurfing and kitesurfing communities and is also known for his beautiful hand-made furniture.

Kripalu yoga expands the practice of physical yoga postures and breathing exercises to include relaxation techniques for integrating body, mind and spirit. The certification conforms with standards of the Yoga Alliance and gives Don and Desiree a thorough background in technical skills necessary to teach yoga safely and effectively. For more information go to <http://www.infobonaire.com/aplaceforyou/>

► **Don't eat our reef fish!** Is it necessary to explain why? A year-long campaign begins in this edition to discourage locals and visitors from eating fish caught on Bonaire's reefs. See page 18.

► **Are you preparing for The Ninth Annual Special Olympics Walkathon? It is set to start at 5 am, Sunday, April 3.** The fundraiser for Special Olympics Bonaire follows the same 30 km. route taken by the slaves from the salt pans in the south to Rincon. See "Happenings" on page 16. ■ G./L. D.

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# Put On Your Clogs



The integration of Bonaire into the Dutch kingdom has already started and day by day it becomes more visible. Not only have a large quantity of Bonaireans gone to Holland but also large numbers of Dutch are now coming to Bonaire. In the streets, Papiamentu and Dutch compete, and in business the US dollar rules. Like the birds in the sky the Antillean florin has disappeared and what used to be the Netherlands Antilles is now history. Since 10.10.2010 Bonaire is part of a European power leader in many fields and at the same time Holland has now a pearl in the Caribbean.

The tulips have come to live with the aloe, the mix in cultures, costumes, climate, fauna, flora... makes us rich. The moment has come to plant and harvest together, to open a new market of cultures where the Dutch culture forms part of the Bonairean and the Bonairean culture forms part of the Dutch. What's important for all of us is to assimilate what is good from both sides, and with positive thoughts, respect and understanding, build our future. Holland has always been like a mother for Bonaire. Now it's that and more. May the Bonairean people, after the failed unity as Antilleans, learn their lesson well and appreciate this new union since there's no room for another divorce. For a long time we have bragged about our Dutch passport; now we are Dutch! For this reason let's share our simadan, steel band and maracas and put on our clogs to dance to the rhythm of the tumba and accordion. Let's celebrate and live together as Dutch. *Alejandro R. del Villar*

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# In Memory of Maria



Greta Kooistra photo

On March 6<sup>th</sup> on Aruba at the age of 59, Maria Jose Rodrigues Cicilia, known as Maria of "La Portuguesa," passed away. She was the heart and soul of her family and the shop. She came to live on Bonaire in 1976 with her husband, Amado. She is survived by him and daughters Armanda, Angelica and son Mauro.

She was hardworking and always cheerful, always helpful and always in for a good laugh. Bonaire is going to miss her dearly; her lovely personality and her beautiful smile. Our thoughts go out to her husband and children and all her family and friends. May you rest in peace Maria, *drumi dushi den brasa di Senior*. ■ *Greta Kooistra*

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Alejandro R. del Villar, born in Venezuela 1961, Dutch nationality, living in Bonaire for 45 years and descendant of an artistic family of painters, sculptors and architects; grandson of Antonio R. Del Villar, sculptor of the Monument of Carabobo for the battle of independence in Venezuela. He has done works, classical as well as modern, for many private collectors in the Caribbean, Holland,

US and has paintings and altarpieces in parishes in Bonaire and Curaçao, the latest in the Pietermaai Cathedral, Willemstad. He has spent several years working and studying classical Russian, Byzantine and Polish icons, developing special techniques. At present he is presenting some of his latest collection of modern Dutch Caribbean art at **Bistro de Paris** restaurant in Kralendijk. ■ *Alejandro R. del Villar*

## Latin Music Classics

**Juan Esteban Aristizábal Vásquez** (born in 1972 in Colombia), better known as **Juanes**, was a member of the heavy metal band Ekymosis, who was greatly influenced by metal acts as Metallica. In 1998 Juanes disbanded the group so that he could pursue a solo career. Juanes has sold more than 12 million albums and won 17 Latin Grammys, more than any other artist!

"*Un Dia Normal*," his first solo album, was released in 2002 and was highly successful in Latin America. The album spent 92 weeks in the top 10 of Billboard's Top Latin Albums chart and the lead single, "*A Dios Le Pido*" topped

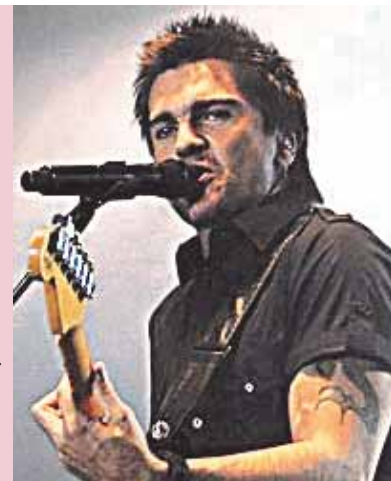
the singles charts of 12 countries. Then in 2004, Juanes released "*Mi Sangre*," an album with three consecutive number one singles, which held the top chart position for a combined six months. It was his final breakthrough to the big time.

## Jody's Music

### Quiz

**This week's question:**  
**What was Juanes' biggest hit all over the world?**

Please send your answer to:  
[info@jodysbonaire.com](mailto:info@jodysbonaire.com)  
and be entered in a draw-



ing to win a CD of your own choice in Jody's shop at Lagoen Hill #18. The winner of this week's contest will be announced in the next edition of *The Reporter*.

**Last week's answer:**  
Pedro Infante sang *Cielito Lindo* in the film *Los Tres García*. Unfortunately there's no winner of the free CD.

In their collection they have 100% original brands like: Nike, G-Star, Replay, Lacoste, Zucchero, A Priori and Zulu. At the cruise-market Jody's Music is one of the stakeholders and always tries to bring in the best music for young and old at the right moment.



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

# The Sailors Who Never Left

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 Part Two of the series, The Sailors Who Never Left....

## A SOUTH AFRICAN SAILOR EMBRACES A LIFE OF ADVENTURE ABOVE AND BELOW THE WATER.

Most mornings you can find Renee Leach enjoying the lush yard that surrounds her modest Hato home. "My garden looks like a jungle," boasts Renee proudly. "I've planted sunflowers and other plants that offer food for the birds. I get about 50 parakeets here every morning between 5 and 6 am. They love the neem tree."

This bucolic, terrestrial lifestyle belies much of what this adventurous woman has accomplished during her many years on the sea. These days Leach spends most of her time under the water. She began Renee's Snorkel Tours seven years ago, a service specializing in shore snorkeling at sites that are not necessarily on the "yellow rock"

circuit along Bonaire's west coast. Her hours in the water have delivered some lifetime memories.

"We were at Tori's Reef following a manta ray one day," explains Renee. "I had two Italian children with me, five and eight, and their parents. Suddenly I heard dolphins whistling. I just grabbed those two children, one under each arm, and swam right through the pod of dolphins. Their mother was just horrified, but those children will never forget that experience for the rest of their lives. Dolphins are so special."

It was decades ago that Renee first learned to snorkel at her university's swimming pool in South Africa. She participated there in the unheralded sport of underwater hockey. Its objective is to maneuver a hockey-style puck across the pool bottom and into a goal. Not only did Renee master the sport, she also met her future husband, teammate Stephan Leach.

"I was born in the high South African mountains," tells Renee. "My father's family came in 1652 with the original Dutch settlers. My mother's people came with the French Huguenots who were driven out of France at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century due to religious persecution. Stephan, however, hails from the Kalahari Desert so I always just called him 'Kalahari.' It was always his dream to go to sea before he was 40. When he asked me to marry him, he said, 'You are going to marry me and my boat or you are not going to marry me'."

There was one problem with Kalahari's marital demand. He had no boat, only a dream. Later, the couple operated a phar-



Renee Leach at her Hato home

macy that helped finance the 10-year construction of a 44-foot wooden ketch (two-masted sailboat) that they built from the ground up. "We didn't have a lot of money back then," recalls Renee. "One of my birthday presents during the construction was a marine toilet. The boat was named Renee. She was the mistress and I was the wife. She got all the money." That kind of humor served Renee well when they left South Africa on their world voyage in 1985. It was a blustery start around the Cape of Good Hope, which she refers to as "the Cape of Storms." They started their trans-Atlantic passage from Saint Helena, an isolated volcanic island off the coast of Africa best known for being the last residence of Napoleon Bonaparte who died there in 1821. By the time the couple



Stefan "Kalahari" Leach passed away on Bonaire after a lingering illness.

(Continued on page 17)

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Cover  
Story

# BON DOET -Bonaire's Biggest Volunteer Event



Sushi Art at Wilemstoren

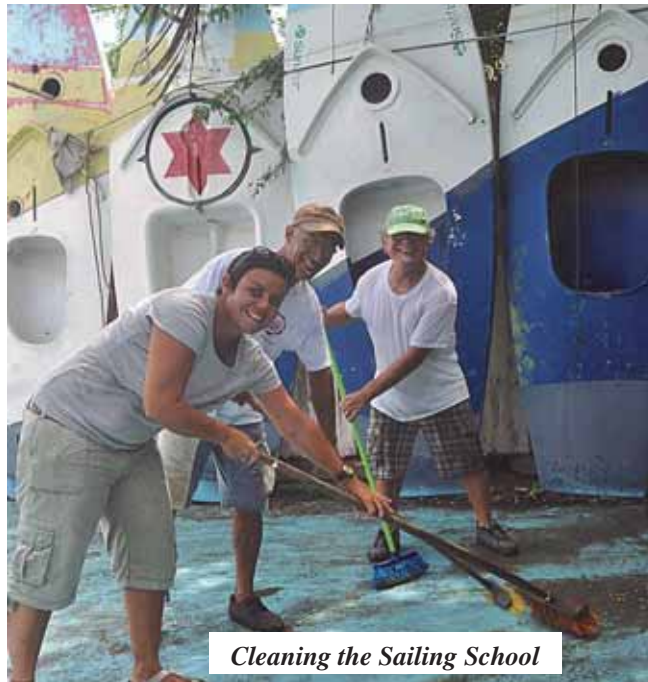
MARIAN PHOTOGRAPHY WATHE



BON DOET Start at ADRA



Painting Kas di Arte



Cleaning the Sailing School



Radio Nederlands helps at Kas di Arte

**B**ON DOET (Bonaire Does), the largest volunteer action in the history of the island, came to successful conclusion last Saturday, but its spirit will continue on.

The event was a combined effort of the Bonaire NGO (Non-Governmental Organizations) Platform, coordination of Roosje van der Hoek of Coffie & Van der Hoek BV and backed by the Dutch Oranje Fonds. During the days of March 18 and 19 more than 40 unique jobs were performed from the southernmost Willemstoren lighthouse to the neighborhoods of Rincon in the north.

Volunteers painted, cleaned, repaired, built, planted and performed other tasks to benefit the many non-profit organizations that characterize the Bonaire community spirit.

A partial list of the beneficiaries and participants of the effort included: Knuki Sur, Stichting Project, Kresh Bon Kwido, Bonaire Animal Shelter, BONAI, Saka Man Yuda Nos, COCARI, STINAPA, SEBIKI, Scouting, Strea di Oro, We Dare To Care Park, Fundashon Bolas, FKBO, ADRA, Mangazina di Rei, Villa Antonia, FKPD, Kas di Arte, Less Indians ballpark, the Sailing School and many more.

The enthusiasm of the days was reflected in the cheers of the workers, from the kids doing sushi art on the south coast to the seniors at COCARI.

Congratulations, Bonaire. You did well! Hopi Bon! ■ G.D.



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The 88<sup>th</sup> 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+

## Jacques van Grootheest and His "Sable" Peugeot 404

Bonaire/Republiek –

So on that sunny Tuesday morning in March we drove the car in the direction of Hato. I had just picked up my good old friend Arjen from Flamingo Airport. Slowly we drove the vehicle into the Kaya Grandi, admiring Bonaire's city centre of Kralendijk. Then, more or less opposite "De Freewieler," as far as I know the only bicycle shop on Bonaire, in the same split second both of us saw the classic contours of a white Peugeot 404. I had never seen a vehicle like this on Bonaire before so I immediately stopped my car and jumped out. My friend had already taken his digital camera out of its holster and started shooting pictures of this French beauty: Peugeot 404, white, Dutch license plates still mounted under the new Bonairean ones, warm engine, hot exhaust pipe, no visible owner... We looked and asked around. We had to find the owner of this beauty!



Then a gentle man approached the vehicle and we introduced ourselves: "Arjen Post from the Netherlands, aficionado of classic cars, especially French cars. Owner of a two tone white and light blue Citroën DS." "J@n Brouwer, writer of articles about special vehicles on Bonaire, owner of a Land-Rover." The gentleman now introduced himself as Jacques van Grootheest, on the island since October 2010. Very proud owner of a white Peugeot 404, produced in 1972 in France. He informed us about the car. Jacques appeared to be the third owner of this French lady, and in his life he's owned not less than seven Peugeot 404s in a row. Time to make an appointment!

So we exchanged telephone numbers and email addresses and after a couple of days I climbed the hill of Republiek, trying to find Kaya Topaz. Kaya Topaz is on the map but it is still quite hard to find. Paved roads, unpaved roads, blocked roads, damaged roads. Finally I found the right location. The Pininfarina-designed 404 was already waiting for me and so was her owner. Jacques invited me in. And yes, this was his seventh Peugeot 404. There had always been Peugeots in his life because his father had a Peugeot dealership in Wageningen, The Netherlands. So in fact Jacques grew up in between brand new and used cars, spare parts and the smell of gasoline, diesel, oil and rubber. Jacques explains. "At the age of 20 I bought my first Peugeot 404. The car was produced in 1973 and it was sprayed Bordeaux red. It had a manually-operated four-speed transmission and the gear shift was mounted on

the steering column. The second 404 was also Bordeaux red. It had an automatic three-speed gear. I finally sold it to an aunt of mine. She drove it for years and years. Finally the car was taken to the scrap yard. A couple of years later I recognized the license plate. The car had been completely restored by a 404 lover! Then I bought a white seven-seater station wagon: a Peugeot 404 Familiare. The sixth and the seventh seat were mounted reverse, like in a Fokker F27 Friendship airplane! The fourth Peugeot 404 was a pickup truck, a so called fourgonette. For years and years it served at a camping site, collecting trash and garbage. My fifth 404 was white. We used this car as a vehicle for transporting the just married couple. The sixth Peugeot was also white, like the last one. In fact my seventh Peugeot 404 is not really white but 'sable,' as white as the sand from the beach. This vehicle is equipped with a 1600 cc four-cylinder overhead valve push rod four-stroke engine, connected to a four-speed gearbox. All 404s have rear-wheel drive. This one is 'modern.' A modern dash board is fitted with three round gages."

Jacques is very proud of his Peugeot. He knows a lot about the brand and the history of the car. Jacques says, "You know, Peugeots are built and assembled in Argentina, Nigeria and Ghana. Even nowadays a lot of 404s and 504s are on the road on the African continent. These cars are very easy to maintain, sturdy and reliable. There are still a lot of parts for these cars and a lot of parts are interchangeable!"

Then we take a closer look at his sable-colored 404. A four-in-line engine, a small carburetor, a desert type air cleaner, a transparent engine layout. Plenty of space to work on the engine. Relatively huge 15-inch rims for extra comfort. Original Michelin XZX tubeless 165SR15 tires are mounted. Three bolts to hold every wheel. Four doors, nice and comfortable beige seats, a console for your arms in the rear, a tartan plaid, coconut floor mats, safety belts, a cigar lighter and three ash trays. Those were the days! A watertight, still functioning, metal sliding roof, standard adapters for a roof rack. This car was produced by the Peugeot factories, 75, Av. De la Grande Armée, Paris 16e in 1973 and

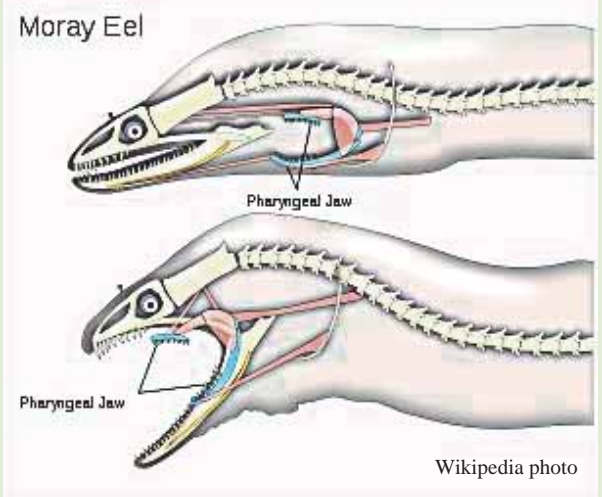


## Bubbles From the Biologist

**Did You Know...** that moray eels have two sets of jaws?

Moray eels, which are common in many reef ecosystems, have a set of jaws which are easily seen by humans as they swim by, but they also possess a set of jaws in their **pharynx** which may aid in feeding. The pharynx is an organ which is comparable to our throat. The second jaw rests in the pharynx but is swung forward by muscle contractions triggered when the moray opens wide.

The majority of fishes utilize a suction style of feeding. This involves a rapid expansion of the mouth cavity to create a pressure differential, thus allowing the fish to swallow food whole and rapidly. However, because this food must fit into the fish's mouth and the fish must have adequate space surrounding them to eat their food this is not the ideal method of feeding for a moray eel which lives in small nooks and crannies in the reef. When a moray eel eats, it bites down with its first set of jaws (the ones visible to us) while the **pharyngeal jaws** swing forward very quickly and help move food towards the stomach. This process is much more efficient than suction-based feeding methods when moray eels are hunting in cracks between corals.



Wikipedia photo

While many fish possess interesting jaw structures and teeth, the second jaw in moray eels is truly a remarkable adaptation because the second jaw does so much in the feeding process apart from simply being present to form the initial procession of food. While many other fish have teeth in their pharynx or roof or on their tongue, the moray's second jaw is a fully developed structure with muscles. In other fish they simply have teeth designed for a certain process and placed in a certain area, but these jaws are advanced in terms of fish feeding structures. ■

Marissa Paulling

Paulling is a Senior at the University of Oregon. She spent last semester studying the coral reefs here in Bonaire with CIEE.



still in very good and every day use condition. Then Jacques takes his place behind the original steering wheel. The wheel is mounted at a slight horizontal angle to supply more comfort to the driver. He starts the engine and slowly the vehicle rolls out of the garden. I follow this French beauty. Nice curves, nice paint, nice stainless steel bumper. A sticker is glued onto the rear of the car, showing an "F" which stands for France.

Peugeots are a passion for Jacques. But he has another passion: water. Water? Yes, water! Jacques is also on the island to find out about and contribute to an effective water management project. He informs me

about 20-foot containers in which a purifier is installed. This machine is able to produce pure drinking water out of several kinds of dirty or polluted water. Six Dutch entrepreneurs are very successful in using these container units to produce drinking water in Kenya. Interested? Go to their web site: [1We.com](http://1We.com) or call Jacques: 795-2754.

■ Story & photos by J@n Brouwer



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# SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

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## APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS and COMPUTERS

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

## ART & GALLERIES

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

## BAKERY & CAFÉ

**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

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

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## DINING

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**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

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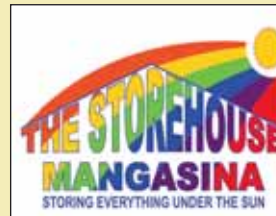
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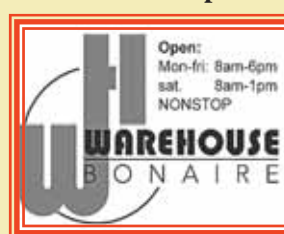


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**Christie Dovale will personally take you on a fascinating tour of the island.** Contact her via her website: [IslandToursBonaire.com](http://IslandToursBonaire.com) Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456. You will remember it always.

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# Little Monty's Second Chance

## PART THREE

*Previously in The Reporter: Monty gets captured, Monty has a terrible time and is starving because the humans don't know what to do, he is rescued and taken to the Lora Team who stuff him full of food. After a fun period during which he is weaned Monty finds himself at the Ministry for Agriculture with many other Loras.*

At first Monty found the aviary to be an incredibly exciting place. His new friends had all sorts of terrible tales to tell. In every case the poor Loras had been torn from their families. Some of the birds were really messed up and some were just plain nasty, but Monty laughed at them because they had been fed such unsuitable food that they were also too fat to fly. Monty had soon grown his feathers back and could fly the full five meters of the aviary so the nasty Fat Club, as he called them, didn't get to bother him.

After some time Monty settled in and he had some close friends, well actually all the other birds were close because even in the relatively large aviary you could never be more than a few meters from all the other birds. There was never any real privacy though and that put all the birds a little bit on edge. Imagine never being about to get alone for even a moment. It wasn't long before

Monty realized life in the aviary was actually a bit dull. He often thought back to the crazy challenges Rhian and Gabi had set him when he was a young lad. There were things going on around him so that helped. Monty got to see the hard working LVV men tending to the goats and in the nursery. Other men were building a water treatment plant, but even Monty could see that was barely adequate for the number of trucks that came and went each day.

Occasionally Monty saw wild Loras flying past in the distance and he would day-dream about being a wild Lora too. As well as being dashing handsome, Monty was very clever. Now of course, Dear Reader, you will be aware that some Loras have the cognitive ability of a five-year-old human child. So Monty was an incredibly intelligent Lora and if he read books, he would be "very advanced for his age." Monty was creative and in his day dreams he imagined eating incredible fruits of all sorts of colours and flavours. He imagined what it would be like to have a Peregrine Falcon (the fastest animal in the world, capable of 320km/hour or 200mph and a winter visitor to Bonaire) swoop down on him and how he would heroically swerve out of its path and be safe.

In reality Monty wasn't a hero, he lived a boring life relatively devoid of dietary inter-



Little Monty at LVV

est or activity. The only thing that Monty could think of that was as boring was doing accountancy. There were good moments, and the highlight of his week was when a nice lady came to visit at the weekend for a chat and to give him some treats. But Monty realized he could be in this aviary along with the other nutbags for the rest of his life. This Monty realized basically meant he was an "accountant" and he was going to be an "accountant" for the rest of his life. As if he hadn't had enough bad news this realization depressed poor Monty.

Deep down Monty just knew he was better than this. He knew that somewhere people would be working feverishly in his favor and that one day he would be free again. He was convinced that just like Madiba in his book, "Long Walk to Freedom," Monty would one day see his family again. He even let himself imagine that somebody would one day make a movie about his life (just like the one on the [www.echobonaire.org](http://www.echobonaire.org) homepage). He had to believe it because otherwise he was going to be an "accountant" for the rest of his life and that was too much for this young Lora to bear.

Monty could not believe it when one day, out of the blue, two men came to the aviary and put him along with several other Loras in boxes. They were driven out into the

wilderness of Bonaire and this Monty knew was the start of something. This was somehow different from the other times he had been captured. And sure enough when he and his companions were let out in another aviary they were surrounded by green trees. It was simply gobsmakingly gorgeous. Monty, being vastly intelligent, immediately spotted two strange doors, Lora doors! This was tremendously exciting, and if it wasn't for the fact that birds had evolved to be incredible efficient at retaining water he probably would have wet himself, for Monty knew this meant he was on his very own Long Walk to Freedom.

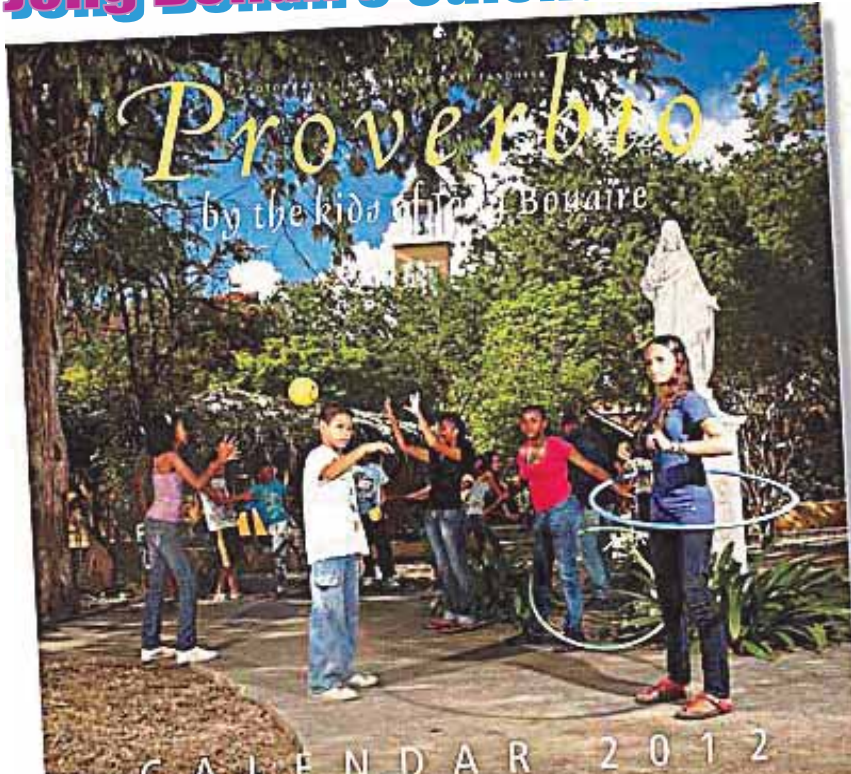
Here, Dear Reader, we must end Part Three of this increasingly mis-named two-part tale that is Monty's Second Chance. But worry not, the inconceivable magic that is Monty's Second Chance will be played out in a forthcoming Reporter. ■

*Conservationist Sam Williams has been involved with Bonaire's Loras for over seven years and he recently founded Echo.*

Find out more [www.echobonaire.org](http://www.echobonaire.org)



## Jong Bonaire Calendar 2012



Cover Jong Bonaire Calendar 2012 "Proverbio" The cover illustrates the proverbio: "Es ku ta para bou di un palu, un bon sombra lo tapa", "He who stands under a tree enjoys the good shade" © 2012 Jacqueline & Bart Landheer for Fundashon Bon Kousa

We're barely one quarter of the way through 2011 but already the kids of Jong Bonaire are hard at work on their 2012 calendar. With photographers Bart Landheer and Jacqueline Bremmers they are discovering old Antillean proverbs and bringing them to life for the next Jong Bonaire calendar.

The kids and photographers have selected 12 old proverbs from an old book of almost 1,000 and will be presenting their interpretation of the proverbs in Papiamentu, Dutch and English for the calendar. For the past four years the Jong Bonaire youth center has offered the large, beautiful calendars for sale as a major fund-raising project.

This month the kids have been posing for photos in many of Bonaire's beautiful but lesser known areas, including the new animal farm in the Washikemba area.

"This is a very important source of income for the youth center," says Rene Hakkenberg, president of the Jong Bonaire Board of Directors. "Each year we must raise almost one third of our operating costs. We really appreciate the support we have had over the years from both local residents as well as visitors to the island."

Again this year the youth center is creating a list of pre-orders so they can determine how many calendars to print. Anyone wishing to order 10 or more calendars is urged to send an e-mail to: [calendar@jongbonaire.org](mailto:calendar@jongbonaire.org) And be sure to mark this year's calendar for September when the 2012 calendars will be on sale. ■ *Press release*



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*The Renee rounding the Cape of Storms (Cape of Good Hope)*

(Sailors... Rene Leach Continued from page 10)

made landfall in Rio de Janeiro weeks later, their 90-day tourist visas were about to expire. They were promptly thrown in jail. The South African consulate secured their release, but Brazilian authorities insisted that the sailors leave the country within 24 hours.

That thrust *Renee* back to a sea with Force 11 winds and waves peaking 50 feet. "That was the height of our mast, but you just have to trust your boat. She was fine." The ferocious storm and unfavorable winter currents made for a circuitous, 18-day journey to Argentina. When the couple finally sailed into the Río de la Plata on their way to Buenos Aires, they were greeted to a joyful sight of a 1,500-boat regatta.

Renee and Kalahari enjoyed a six-month stay in hospitable Argentina. But the world voyage beckoned and they pointed *Renee* north, sailing the entire eastern coastline of South America. Landfall was finally made on the Dutch island of Sint Maarten in the northeast Caribbean. The couple dropped anchor in the Simpson Bay Lagoon joining hundreds of other transient sailors. They lived aboard their ketch for three years and worked various odd jobs on the island. Later, they sailed to Aruba for a year's stay. It was there that the South Africans met Marcus Wiggins.

Wiggins's family owned the Divi Resort on Bonaire and Marcus was looking for someone to operate his trimaran charter boat, the *Woodwind*, anchored in front of the hotel. "We flew over to see the boat at 8 am," recalls Renee. "I was only on Bonaire for four hours that morning, but I fell in love. The island was clean, the people were friendly and the moment I looked in the water, I knew there was nothing better than this."

That was 1990. "There were no high rises then," continues Renee, "only gorgeous, gorgeous, old Antillean houses. The architecture was so similar to what I was used to in South Africa that I felt at home. Both architectural styles go back to Holland. Every time they break down one of those old houses today, it breaks my heart."

Renee moved to Bonaire and immediately started working on the *Woodwind*. Kalahari followed six months later after completing a charter captain job in Aruba. They anchored *Renee* next to the *Wood-*

*wind*, and within two years, bought the charter business from Wiggins. "We thought we would run the *Woodwind* for five years," explains Renee, "but it didn't work out that way. We fell in love with the island and we never left."

The couple lived on *Renee* for the next 15 years, enjoying their new life on Bonaire. Then quite suddenly, Kalahari was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He died 14 months later. That tragic event drastically changed Renee's life.

She moved to land during her husband's illness, but continued the charter business by hiring several captains. "I had a German captain working for me after my husband's death. He had a family living on a 32-foot boat with two children. So I sold *Renee* to him, but eventually he left Bonaire and sailed the boat back to Germany. I had tears in my eyes when I saw *Renee* sail away. But then again, how many people can say they live a life like this? I always say my husband died with his dream and few people can say that they reached their dreams by the time they die."

Renee also has few regrets. She eventually sold the *Woodwind* and started her snorkel business. She never had any intention of leaving Bonaire. "I don't do cold anymore!"

Her life at sea has given this sailor a lifetime of experiences that few ever witness. Renee tells about one more right before departing for another snorkel tour. "When Kalahari and I were operating *Woodwind*, we always cooked a Wednesday barbeque at No Name Beach for our customers. He and I built the original huts there on Klein Bonaire. We were barbecuing on the beach when suddenly I saw a large rippling in the water right next to the boat. A huge form rose up out of the sea. It was a whale's tail that reached higher than the *Woodwind's* mast. Now THAT was a big whale."

Big whale. Big voyage. Big life. Renee Leach has embraced them all. ■

Story & photos by Patrick Holian

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



## MEDICATION MYTHS

How many times have you heard of, or felt the effects of a new medication? It lasts for a few days, a few weeks, or even a few months, and then it stops being effective! This is usually the time when your doctor introduces another new medication!

The sad truth is that any medication introduced will have an effect on the illness or disease pathway (certainly for a short while!). **Why?** The present day practice of allopathic medicine is essentially a disease-specific approach to patient care. In other words, it is known empirically that a specific disease or condition has a certain probability of responding to a particular therapy. The therapy is implemented and the patient's subjective response is awaited. The goal apparently is to match each of the thousands of named diseases and conditions with a "cure"! What has happened to biological individuality?

Far too often those that are on medications rely on these medications to solve their health problems, little realizing that these same medications are causing more problems than what they are worth! Take, for example, diuretics which are commonly prescribed for high blood pressure issues. These same diuretics **Enhance** magnesium and potassium loss. Potassium levels cannot be maintained even with potassium supplementation when magnesium levels are low. Magnesium supplementation is essential, and is almost always neglected in those taking diuretics. Are you on diuretics – have you been told to supplement magnesium? I thought not!

Another culprit is statin drugs to lower cholesterol. These drugs deplete the body of Co-enzyme Q10. Such deficiency often

results in irregular heart beat and weakening of the heart muscle, while at the same time increasing the oxidation of LDL cholesterol in the arteries. The result – statin drugs can actually increase the incidence of heart attacks and strokes!

Let us also take a look at those seemingly "innocent" every-day items like laxatives and anti-acids. Used on a regular basis, they will result in a magnesium overload which could lead to hypotension (low blood pressure) and decreased phosphorous levels resulting in the poor retention of all minerals, not just phosphorous.

It is therefore not difficult to understand why people are given at least two medications (for the same problem!), and if they are taking high blood pressure medication they almost automatically are also taking cholesterol lowering medication, oh, and do not forget the heart medication. Then there is the medication for the cataracts, the prostate, and the "aspirin a day to keep the blood thin"!

**Wake Up!** Research your medications! Take **The Correct** supplement that is being depleted by your medication (s). Then again, you do not **Have To** do anything!

If you are reasonably healthy on your medication, you still have the freedom of choice. ■  
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

## DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

## Sudoku Solution

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

Sudoku Solution

Bon Quiz (from page 7)

## BonQuiz Answer

Q) Where are these oil tanks located?

A) Playa P'abao- Sorobon, Playa Fishermen's Dock, Harbour Village Marina and Playa Frans



# Pets of the Week



"Sunshine"



"Cocoa"

These two "best friends," "Sunshine" and "Cocoa," have been together for most of their lives. Their owner passed away and now these girls are orphans and up for adoption. Both are about seven years old but act like puppies. They love to play and are frisky and full of fun. They're big girls and would really appreciate a nice yard to play in or someone to run with. They don't have a mean bone in their bodies; they're just sweetie ladies who need to have a loving owner. They're in top health, love people, have been sterilized. They're ready to go. To meet them and the other adoptees, visit the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. [WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com](http://WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com)

### Shelter Manager Marlies writes:

The Bonaire Animal Shelter is working on a series of 12 videos about the cats and dogs that live in the Shelter. There will be a new video very month.

The first video was made to promote the happy cats and dogs in the Shelter. You can watch these cuties playing and listen to the great sound effects. With a video like this, you are sure to fall in love and adopt one of these wonderful creatures!

The video is sponsored by Real Estate Agency Bonaire Keys.

Watch it on [www.animalshelterbonaire.com](http://www.animalshelterbonaire.com) or on their Youtube channel:

[www.youtube.com/AnimalshelterBonaire](http://www.youtube.com/AnimalshelterBonaire) ■ Laura DeSalvo

### CAT LITTER CRISIS AVERTED

The Bonaire Animal Shelter would like to thank all the generous supporters who sought out and donated cat litter to help keep the Shelter's cat privies pretty. The donations were enough to stave off a real litter shortage crisis until relief arrived. With the help of Tropical Flamingo, the Shelter is now purchasing pallets of 50 pound bags of litter on a regular shipping basis. Thanks again for all the donations and a big thank you to Tropical Flamingo.

FACTOID: The Shelter uses **150 pounds of cat litter every week at a cost of about \$45 per week!** (Monetary donations to help defray the costs of the new purchase plan are always appreciated.) ■ Jane Madden

# Preventing Doggie Disease



Puppies Sammy and India get their shots from Shelter staff members Monique and Marlies, and volunteer Gitta (center). To fight against the deadly Parvo and other diseases these shots should be given to all puppies and dogs on the island. The first shot in a series is administered when the puppy is six to nine weeks old. Then as an adult they should get the shot every year.

# Farmers' Market

Don't forget to pass by the monthly **Farmers' Market next Saturday, March 26, behind the Go Green health food shop across from the big catholic church in Kralendijk, from 8 am to noon.**

The market is getting a wider variety of products as more local growers participate. You never know what you'll find but in past months there were several kinds of vegetables, local agave brewed tequila, herbs, homemade pasta, landscaping plants, honey, crafts and more. ■ G.D.



Laura Stefani, Bianca Resenti, and Lizzy Zeeman offer local "Italian" products.

**Go Green Farmers' Market**

Grow Your Own?  
Raise Animals?  
Bake?

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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## The Zodiacal Light and a Close Encounter

I've got some bright stuff for you in the morning and a faint, subtle light in the evening that I'll bet most of you have never seen. And happily next week is your best chance this year to see the evening version of the faint light of the **false dawn**, which I'll call "the **false dusk**." Next week is good because there will be no bright Moonlight to wipe out this delicate astronomical phenomenon. Let me tell you all about it and what you have to do to find it.

If we could go way out into space and look down on our **solar system** with superhuman vision, we would notice a faint yet vast cloud of **cosmic dust** extending outward from the **Sun** in the plane of the orbits of **Mercury, Venus, Earth** and slightly beyond. And while one would expect it would be impossible to see this super faint cloud from Earth, nevertheless in March, in the evening, when the plane of our Earth's orbit is almost vertical to the horizon, we can, under the right conditions.

And these conditions require that there is no bright Moonlight out and that you must be far away from bright lights because even the faintest Moonlight or urban lighting will wipe out the extremely delicate, ethereal glow of the false dusk. As a general rule since you can see the **Milky Way** from Bonaire you'll have a good chance to see this rare phenomenon next week. To see it, look toward the west about two hours after sunset. It will look like a wedge or cone-shaped dim patch of light about the same brightness as the Milky Way and it will extend from the horizon about one third to half way up to the **zenith**, a ghostly, faintly glowing rounded pyramid of light.

Now the scientific name of this phenomenon is the **Zodiacal Light** and it's caused by sunlight reflected from all those trillions and trillions of dust particles which make up the great cosmic cloud. Additionally, if you ever see a



Zodiacal Light photo

similar oval-shaped glow directly overhead at midnight you would be seeing the zodiacal light's sister phenomenon called the **Gegenschein or counter-glow**. At any rate, remember that next week is your best chance to see the evening zodiacal light, which I admit is very elusive.

Now for something a lot brighter but not as conveniently timed, look east before dawn next week and you'll have a chance to spot a fading **Crescent Moon** having a close encounter with the brightest planet of them all- **Venus** - if the clouds cooperate. Look up to its right for the 24-day-old waning crescent Moon about 30 degrees away. Then things really start to pick up on Wednesday. The Moon will be only 10 degrees away and getting skinnier. The best day will be Thursday with an extremely skinny, slender sliver of a Moon passing only 5 degrees above Venus. And keep in mind that even though they might look close together in the sky, that Venus is over 400 times farther away than the Moon.

I think you'll find it these two sights most inspiring. ■ *Dean Rigas*



## THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

March 29-April 2, 2011 Horoscope

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Try not to overspend on friends or family. Sign up for courses or join fitness clubs. Opportunities to meet new lovers will come through pleasure trips or social events. It may not be the best time to socialize with clients or colleagues this week. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You should be putting your cash into long-term investments like real estate. In return, the satisfaction you get is enough for you. Don't reveal anything about your personal life to those who may use such information against you. There'll be difficulties if you spend too much. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Try to visit friends or relatives you don't get to see often. Channel your efforts into achieving your goals. You can certainly gain popularity; however, don't do it by paying for everyone else. Don't donate more than you can afford in order to impress others. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You will learn easily if you put forth an effort. You might find that coworkers will support your endeavors. Work quietly at your own goals and forget about situations that you can do little about. You need a job with more responsibility and a higher wage. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Your lack of attention may have been a factor. Females may put demands or added responsibilities on you. Socializing will be more than just entertaining. Socialize with friends, but don't overspend on lavish entertainment. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Someone close to you may need help. Opportunities for romance will develop through activities with large groups. You may want to put your creative thinking cap on. It's doubtful anyone will try to stand in your way or cut you off at the pass this week. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Social events will be favorable. Unstable relationships are likely. Take a close look at documents before signing on the dotted line. Secret love affairs may be enticing; however, you must be prepared for the restraints that will follow. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You will easily capture the interest of those you talk to. Take work home but be sure to spend some time with your mate. You won't be well received by superiors or by your spouse. You can get ready to celebrate your new direction. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Older relatives may make unreasonable demands. Your need to put great detail into everything you do may cause you to miss the overall picture. Don't expect others to live up to their promises and you won't be disappointed or find yourself stuck with delays. Your emotional stability may influence the changes taking place in your personal life. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Someone you work with could try to undermine you. Such over indulgence due to emotional upset will be your downfall. Put something away in case of an emergency. If they want help that's great, but if they try to take credit for your work, you will have to set them straight. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Expect your workload to be heavy. If you're already in a relationship, use this added energy passionately. Pleasure trips or friendly get-togethers will be satisfying and intellectually stimulating. Lend an ear to children; it can make a difference. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You need more space for the whole family. You can make money through your creative efforts. Your disciplined attention to jobs will enhance your position. However, you should be concerned about what they want in return. Your lucky day this week will be Monday. ■

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## Surfing the Sahara



Start of the long distance race

Bonaire's biggest export, next to salt, is professional windsurfers. Ruben Petrisie, windsurf pro, event promoter and rap musician, is another "Son of Bonaire" making his living from the sport. Here he reports from Africa.

An invitation to participate in the windsurfing exhibitions and the music activities at Morocco's Dakhla Festival sounded really good during the winter months in The Netherlands. The fifth Dakhla Festival this year took place on February 20 to 28. A true multi-cultural and multi-discipline class event with activities such as windsurfing, kiting, SUP (stand up paddle boards), surfing, long boarding and music. Everything together makes it a real

"waterman's dream."

Too bad I had no time to organize race equipment for the long distance race, but I did get my hands on a few Ka Sails for freestyle and wave, thanks to Mr. Peter Weitenberg who also dropped me off at the airport. My destination was Dakhla, which is located on the coast of Morocco on Western Sahara 22 km north of the Tropic of Cancer. Dakhla is a desert holiday destination with opportunities for kite surfing and windsurfing. It is mainly spread over a large sandy beach with a huge 50-km lagoon which is ideal for water sports.

All board bags were loaded into a large truck by a strong Moroccan man as we boarded a bus to head to our village. Yes, a village was built on the coast. It was made

from nearly 100% carpets and tents. I found it really amazed at how beautifully and simply the tents were put together. It was so wonderfully constructed with anti-wind and anti-sun techniques, but then again crazy that no one was worrying about the rain because I noticed holes in our tent. Anyway we did not had to worry about the rain because, in the largest desert on earth with the harshest climate it only rains two inches per year. So it is quite simply a perfect winter escape. Early in the morning during the breakfast buffet which was located under a big tent you could enjoy the early birds cruising on the first waves of the day on their SUP (stand up paddle boards).

After breakfast the first meeting was held and the event program and activities were explained. We were then guided around the whole area where the event would take place. Some spots were miles away so we went with Land Rovers. I was excited to go sailing in the beautiful point-breaking waves.

After lunch we had the opportunity to finally go sailing while the wind had dropped a bit. The wave exhibition began at 5 pm. I was in the second round against five other riders from France and Morocco. I stylishly dropped in on my first wave 'which was steep and big' with my freestyle board and proudly made a few top turns, but I have to admit that that actually was my first and last wave for the wave exhibition games. At my last cut

back, the lip (the upper edge of the wave) just smashed me down in a wink of an eye, and there I was swimming and kicking for the rest of the 20 minutes of the heat, with a shorty wetsuit and a harness attached on my hips. It was a really awfully frustrating situation. Finally dinner was served later that evening under the big tent where we often waited for hours for our food. After a day full of action under the sunshine and a late chat about travel stories under a sky of shining stars in Dakhla it became really pleasant to fall asleep in the tent under a thick blanket with pounding waves in the background.

On the second day the wave surfers were busy while the windsurfers were put on standby. Shortly after lunch it was time for the long distance racers to start. They were brought to the spot at Moussafir camping beach. They all tracked with GPS devices so you could watch the race live on the Internet via satellite. The long distance was one of the largest races ever done-90km - but it was canceled due to light wind conditions.

The next day the wave surf finals for the Moroccan national surfing tour took place and after lunch the Outrigger and the Hydro foil were put into action. There were three types of hydro foils this year plus stand up paddle (SUP) boards, windsurf and kite surfing boards aiming to demonstrate different ways of sailing to the public and the media.

Over the last days similar activities

took place and most athletes were just out having fun and doing photo sessions. I was brought to town to do a freestyle session for the media.

On the weekend nights the Big Music festival started with a whole lot of African artists including reggae legend, Alpha Blondy, on the list. I had a performance with a reggae band at the tent village. It was more sort of a freestyle jam session where anyone could play or sing along. It was super interesting to have seen so many people just stepping out of the crowd and starting to make music together. It was a wonderful night.

I enjoyed the trip and surely will go back one day to ride the point-breaking waves. I even ate camel meat for dinner for the first time in my life. ■ Ruben Petrisie



photo credits: Dakhla Fest / Jean Souville

Also visit [www.rubenpetrisie.com](http://www.rubenpetrisie.com)