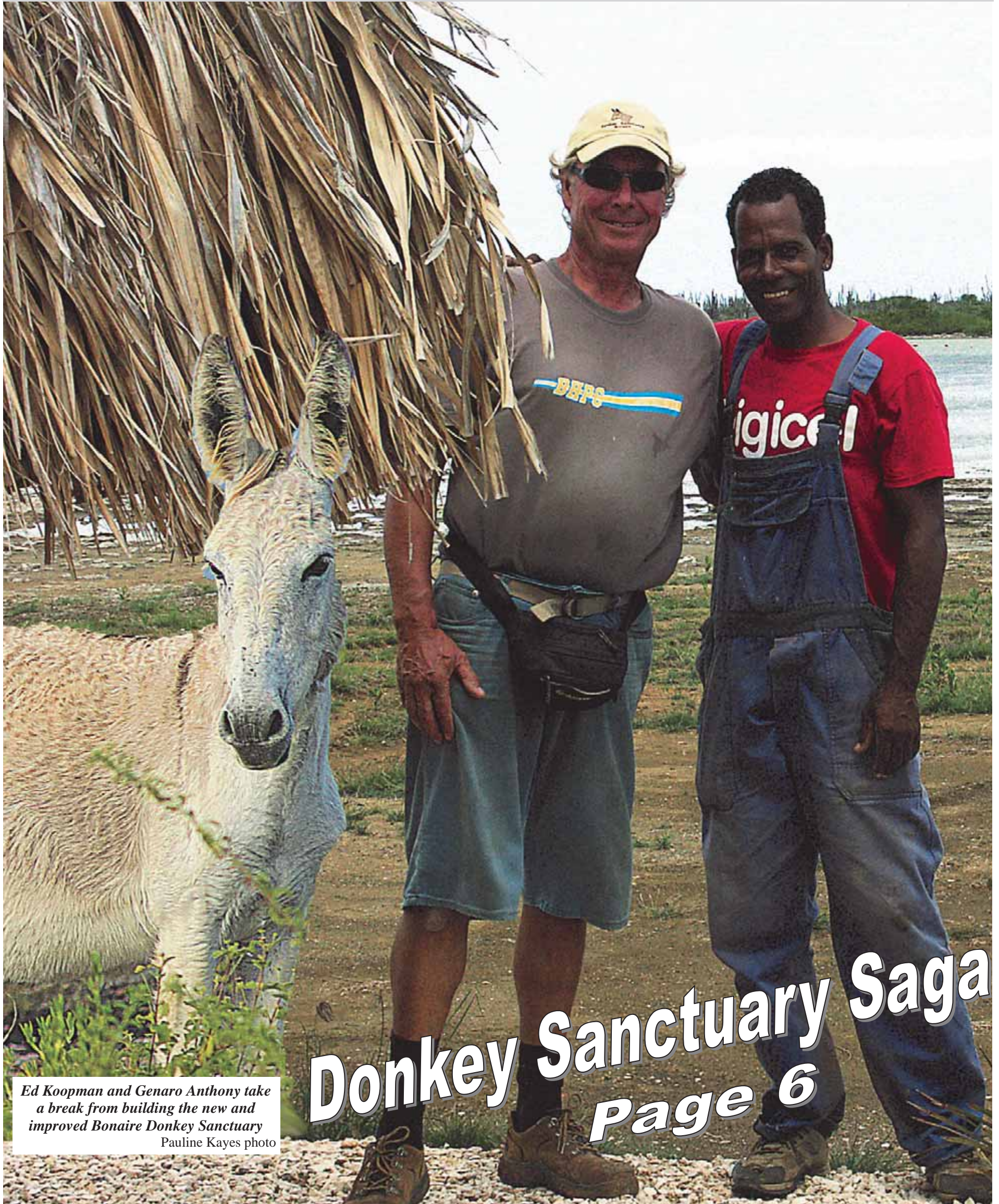


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**BONAIRE** *May 27-June 24, 2011, Year 18, Issue 11*  
**The REPORTER**

*Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly*

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**Donkey Sanctuary Saga**  
**Page 6**

*Ed Koopman and Genaro Anthony take a break from building the new and improved Bonaire Donkey Sanctuary*  
Pauline Kayes photo





Saving money

In response to the current discussion about the fuel clause (extra charge linked to the price of oil) being included in its current tariffs Water and Energy Bonaire (WEB) explained its electricity price has remained unchanged despite the considerable rise in the oil price due to the use of wind energy. Critics say that since WEB does not generate its own electricity any more the company may not charge extra for fuel. WEB feels this criticism is wrong. WEB argues that at this time, windmills on the island provide a large percentage of the electricity. This method is not only clean, but also almost free. The company Ecopower supplies the energy. Apart from windmills, Ecopower also has five diesel generators which need fuel, so the constantly increasing price of oil on the international market affects the production cost. What Ecopower charges WEB has a variable component and reflects the fuel costs. Depending on the variation of this component, WEB passes this on to the customer. The fuel clause rate currently used dates from July 28, 2010, when the price of a barrel of oil had been approximately US\$75. In the meantime, the price per barrel has increased to approximately around \$100.

►Beginning July 1 retired or near retired medical specialists from The Netherlands will begin working in Bonaire's San Francisco Hospital thanks to a recently signed agreement between MedicalWork and The Mariadal Foundation (The Hospital). According to a statement by Steef van 't Pad Bosch of MedicalWork the cooperation agreement enables Dutch specialists to combine business with pleasure. "For a number of

months specialists will be working directly with patients.

►Peter van de Mosse-laar has stepped down from the Island Government after spending only two months on the job. The commissioner had been coping with health problems. It's anticipated that leader of "Pro Hustisia i Union" (PHU) Michiel Bijkerk will take his place.

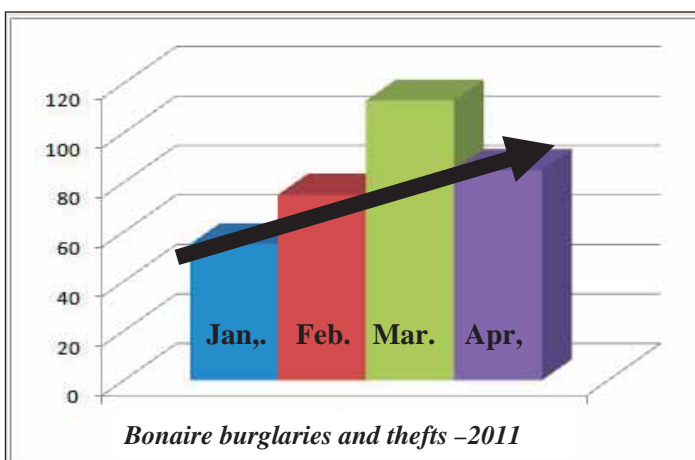


M. Bijkerk

►MIAMI--America's top meteorologists issued their 2011 hurricane season forecast on Thursday, predicting a serious and above-average season - though not one as tumultuous as the violent 2010 season. The Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and lasts through November 30. That's when about 90% of the storms arrive. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration warned that this year's season will be above average, with as many as 10 hurricanes blasting their 110-mile-per hour winds across the area.

►THE HAGUE--Most of the personnel at the Kingdom Service Offices of The Netherlands in the Caribbean RCN are local. Dutch Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations, Piet Hein Donner, stated in a letter dated late April to the Second Chamber. In his letter he provided an overview of the number of personnel working at the RCN whose responsibilities cover Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius. The overview showed that not all positions at the RCN have been filled. Between 75 and 100% of the jobs are occupied by local persons, meaning persons from Bonaire, Saba, and St. Eustatius, or from Curaçao, Aruba, and St. Maarten.

► A majority of Dutch parliamentarians thinks Princess Máxima should become queen when her husband Prince Willem-



► Crime on Bonaire is on the rise according to figures released by the police department. The statistics show burglaries and thefts on an upward trend. Other non-violent crime is also up. The police say they are actively working to apprehend the criminals and have been issuing daily reports to the press.

Alexander becomes monarch. Traditionally in The Netherlands while the wife of a king becomes queen, queens' husbands remain princes. In any case, if she does become queen, she has the hat.



State Secretary of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations, stated this in an interview early this month. The basis of the Dutch Kingdom was laid in 1813 when the Prince of Orange returned to The Netherlands. With his crowning as King Willem I in 1815, a constitutional monarchy was established.

►The Dutch economy grew 0.9% in the first three months of this year, taking the annual growth rate to 3.2%, the national statistics office the statistics bureau said on Friday. The annual figure is the highest in three years, the bureau said in an economic update. Household consumption rose 0.2%, as people bought more new cars and made more visits to cafes and restaurants. The construction sector also showed spectacular growth of 13%, reversing two years of decline, the CBS said.

►ZWOLLE--The Dutch Caribbean islands will most certainly be involved in the 200<sup>th</sup>-year anniversary celebrations of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in 2013. Chairwoman of the National Committee 200 years Kingdom of The Netherlands Ank Bijleveld-Schouten, former

►Last week local authorities and emergency services exercised their contingency plans with a simulated plane crash (A passenger aircraft with 22 persons on board with a collapsed landing gear had slid off the runway, colliding with several vehicles that caught fire immediately). The task of the emergency staff chaired by Island Governor Glenn Thodé was to suppress and control this disaster as smoothly and quickly as possible. The intention is to perform a similar contingency drill on Bonaire twice a year.

►The turtle nesting season has begun. Take special care on Bonaire's beaches, especially Klein Bonaire. Please take away your trash and avoid beach fires. The nesting turtles will appreciate it.

(Continued on page 9)

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# Why Divi Divi Ditched

Last week the Dutch Safety Board published the results of their investigation into the October 2009 Divi Divi Air flight 014 ditching near Klein Bonaire that claimed the life of the pilot, but spared the passengers. The report detailed how a tragic combination of factors led to the tragedy.

According to the report, the BN-2 Islander commuter-sized airplane's right side engine quit 10 minutes after takeoff as it was being throttled back. The pilot elected to continue to Bonaire on one engine even though he was only 25% of the distance to that destination. Altitude could not be maintained and the airplane landed in the water about three miles short of the Flamingo Airport runway. The pilot, Robert Mansell, drowned as he could not be released from his seat. All nine passengers escaped the airplane relatively unharmed and were picked up by dive boats from Bonaire within five minutes. Mansell's girlfriend, Myrte van Seggelen, told Radio Netherlands that Mansell had often complained about the aircraft being overloaded, but that he still flew them in order not to lose his flight hours.



Photo from Dutch Safety Board Report

*Damage to the front of the aircraft may have trapped the unconscious pilot in his seat*

The management of Divi Divi has not reacted to the report yet, but five of the nine passengers and Mansell's father have initiated a lawsuit against the company.

The investigation disclosed that the airplane was unable to maintain altitude on one engine due to overloading. **The airplane, which is rated for a maximum takeoff weight of 6,600 lbs., was overloaded by 9%.** (7,194 lbs).

By continuing the flight and not directly returning to Curaçao's airport under these circumstances **the pilot took a completely unacceptable risk.** Furthermore the Board established **that Divi Divi Air used a standard passenger weight (165 lbs.) that was too low.** It has been adjusted upwards since. A subsequent random audit revealed that **the maximum takeoff and landing weights were habitually exceeded.**



Birmingham Mail Photo

*Pilot Robert Mansell, who died as a result of the accident, was hailed as a hero because none of the passengers were seriously hurt because of his handling of the ditching.*

The investigation also concluded that **Divi Divi Air management insufficiently supervised the safety of the flight operations** of their airplanes. Also **safety oversight conducted by The Netherlands Antilles Directorate of Aviation was inadequate.** The Board is concerned about safety oversight on civil aviation at Curaçao.

The results of the investigation have resulted in recommendation for corrections to Divi Divi Air, the Minister of Traffic, Transportation and Spatial Planning of Curaçao and the Governor of Bonaire.

Maurice Adriaens, current director of the Curaçao Airport Holding, who was Minister of Traffic and Transport at the time,

said in a reaction to the report on the crash, "Although we focused on the supervision on the loading of aircraft right after the crash, we still have numerous other points (to correct). In practice, we notice daily the lack of supervisory personnel." He added, "Actually, matters have become worse," because Curaçao's Directorate of Aviation is very short-staffed since the loss of its director and inspector in the Haiti earthquake last year. ■G.D.

The report that this article is based on is filled with details too numerous to mention in this story. It can be retrieved from <http://www.ecorys.nl/dmdocuments/eo20448rapdef.pdf>



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# On the Island Since... May 2005 – Marianne

“Friends of mine had gone on vacation to Curaçao, but they also spent several days on Bonaire. When they came back to Germany they showed me the photos and told me how beautiful and clean Bonaire was. I thought, ‘I should go and check it out.’ In 2000 I came twice and in the years that followed I came here every year at least three times. In Germany I owned an international trucking company from 1982 till 2005. For 12 years I was on the road myself, driving 40-ton trucks all over Europe and during the weekends I did the bookkeeping. So, when I talk about business I know what I’m talking about!

After the new millennium we still had a lot of work, but diesel prices had gone up and the same for the maintenance and the truckers’ wages. Everything became more expensive but the carriage remained the same and

so I started looking for a house to rent on Bonaire, and in the spring of 2005 I found a house in Belnem. On May 30 I arrived with two Rhodesian Ridgeback dogs. My paperwork had been all arranged by a local person and in June I got my residency.

I knew a lot of local people; friendships which had grown during the years I came to visit the island. In those days people were always there for one another and they would help each other in every possible way. Cultimara was a meeting point and everybody would say ‘hello,’ ‘how are you?’ and they would chat with you even if they didn’t know you. It was a slow paced, very friendly island style.

The first weeks I didn’t do anything but get used to my new life. My belongings from Germany arrived in a 20-foot and a 40-foot container plus my car and a trailer. Amado Felix and Lutti

from customs did an excellent job and within three hours the containers were empty and removed.

It was September, October when Sue Felix asked me if I would be interested in taking the tourist course and become a tour guide. The first months I went on the bus with Sue but since 2006 I gone with my own car, and via Sue every other week I ‘did’ the Aida, a cruise ship with only German tourists. I’m still doing it and it’s fun! Sue always keeps me informed about new courses and I take them all. Nowadays I’m not only doing German ships but also the Latinos, the British and the Americans. However, you need to have the right papers for the job and without a TCB sticker you can’t even get to the pier!

From, let’s say three, four years ago, more people have come to live here and lots of things



**“Everything has gone up 30-35%! It won’t take long before we will only have rich and poor people and nothing in between...”**

changed. Ten years ago you could still leave your house open. Not anymore – you have to watch out. When more and especially wealthier people arrive, the crime rate goes up and another terrible issue is the drug problem. I feel very sorry for all the kids who get involved in this mess...

I would love to be positive

about all the changes, but it’s hard. Before we got the dollar you could go and buy stuff for a hundred guilders and you would take something home to put in the fridge and you were okay for about a week. Now you pay a hundred dollars and you’ve got nothing. Everything has gone up 30-35%! It won’t take long be-

(Continued on page 5)

			
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*On the Island Since* (continued from page 4)  
 fore we will only have rich and poor people and nothing in between... And I can't imagine how the elderly are surviving with their AOW. And what about the young people who can't find a job? Or how could any local person afford to rent a house? Here, the poor people have to make a chocolate from poop! It seems nobody can get ahead anymore..."

*Marianne gets up to make us a coffee. I've known her for a while now and she's a real good person, tough and realistic, but someone who cares, someone who can't stand injustice. I've seen her talking and laughing and chatting in her easy going, casual way with people from all walks of life, all nationalities. Helping them, trying to make things better for them and... not only for them but also for their pets....*

"I was never at the animal shelter, but some years ago I saw so many poor dogs on the streets that I decided to do something about it. I've always had dogs and horses and so, for the last two years I'm doing the fieldwork. I talk to everybody and try to convince people to have their dogs and cats sterilized and castrated. Also, people come to my house to ask me if their pets can be picked up to be sterilized and then I call the shelter, make the appointment with the vet and the ball starts rolling.

I really like the fact that people know where to find me! Not only people - you see the trupial eating the sugar? And did you see the little bird nestling in the pot with the artificial flowers? All that doesn't have a house comes to me! Even the

rats know where to find me. Hahaha!  
 Before I had my company I worked from 1978 till 1982 for a shipping company in Aqaba, Jordan. Then I came back to Germany and started my trucking company. In 1990 I fell in love with the beautiful Frisian horses. First I had one but after some time I had 25 Frisian horses and I've been breeding them with a lot of success. One of my champions was Djimmer van Marksate van de Friesland, Gorredijk. They wrote in the Dutch newspaper, 'The first prize didn't go to the Netherlands - not even to Friesland - no! It went to a German lady in Germany!' I bought a farm, especially for my horses and I also did show riding. I've won so many cups. One mare went to Michigan and my horses have been champion seven times in Holland."

*She shows me her photographs - the farm, beautiful horses, prizes and cups, a beaming Marianne all dressed up for show riding. More photographs are taken out of a drawer: a tiny Marianne next to giant shining trucks with her name on them, 'International Transport.' Some woman she is!*

I've always had dogs, horses and cats on the farm, but now I only have one little doggy, 'Schusch,' from the shelter. She is very intelligent and understands everything I tell her. She sleeps with me, I take her everywhere I go and if I have to go somewhere without her, Horst takes care of her. He is my best friend on the island. We do a lot of things together and he helps me and I help him. To me friendship is something more valuable than anything else. Friends are rare in this world and

when you have one you always have to be honest and straightforward with them.

I love to chat with the local people in Papiamentu, but my Spanish is better. I also get along with the Dutch who came here a long time ago.

I haven't been in Belnam for a long time. I am happy to live in a real local neighborhood now amidst the locals. We get along fine and I love the food... *funchi, tutu, kabritu stoba... hopi dushi!* And fresh fish from the sea... delicious.

I still like it here, but it shouldn't become busier because then the island will lose its soul. I love my garden, my banana trees, my birds, yeah...everything!

I come from a trucking company with only men working for me. My mom had her own shop, my dad had his trucking company. I made it by myself. I learned how to do the bookkeeping, how to do business; I can stand up for myself - I am not afraid and.... I will not die here... Panama, Ecuador, San Andres - now I'm here and I am happy, but please don't turn this island into a second Curaçao! Everything here should be done in a decent way. People should be decent with each other and the government should treat



people decently. If all the government offices would cooperate more efficiently, a lot of money could be saved and more jobs could be created. Everyone who lives here has a right to a job. And if we all work together and be friendly and positive towards one another, Bonaire could have a future and stay 'the friendly island.' And everyone who is doing well could also donate a little bit to the Animal Shelter every month, so our four-legged friends will also have a better life. And remember this: The local people own the island. We, all foreigners, should adjust to their culture... not the other way around." ■

*Story & photos by Greta Kooistra*



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# "...For the Sake of Bonaire and Her Donkeys."

## The Continuing Saga of the Bonaire Donkey Sanctuary

Few people on Bonaire may know the ever-changing story of the Bonaire Donkey Sanctuary, including the latest chapter on the Sanctuary's move to land near the straight paved road to Sorobon.

In 1993, Sanctuary Director Marina Melis began her career of donkey care on Bonaire with one donkey housed at the Animal Shelter, but as more donkeys needed help, she was offered land in Mexico by her friends Imre and Aida Esser as a temporary refuge. In just a few months, she had taken in 59 donkeys rescued from car accidents and abuse or orphans whose mothers had been killed or who had been stolen from their mothers. In 1995, with the assistance of Marjolein Hoff from JAZ and Lt. Governor Frits Goedgedrag, Melis was allocated 13.5 hectares of rental land adjacent to the airport from the government. Goedgedrag wrote a letter to DROB saying donkey rescue was very important to the island and that they should find land that Melis could use to expand her sanctuary. An essential trait of this chosen land was the natural well that could provide water for the growing number of donkeys.

Here, at the first real home of the Donkey Sanctuary, Melis' partner, Ed Koopman, used his ample knowledge and skills in construction to build fencing, a stable, an orphans' yard, a store, a lookout tower, and eventually their home in 2003 when a number of break-ins and security concerns forced them to move onto the sanctuary. During this time, Melis was not only busy organizing the sanctuary and rescuing donkeys but also fundraising to pay for the care and feeding of the donkeys. Some of the organizations that have supported Melis' efforts include PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), Animals' Best Friend—both in the US—The Donkey Sanctuary in the United Kingdom, and the Animal Welfare Association in Holland. In addition, visitors—which average 28 a day during off-season to 50 a day during in-season—regularly make donations, and even adopt donkeys, to cover their food and veterinary care. Such support enabled Melis to give regular tours of the sanctuary to groups of school children and teach about humane treatment of one of Bonaire's historical treasures.

Then, between 2005 and 2007, there was an explosion of car accidents with donkeys; more cars on the roads of Bonaire meant more injuries of both humans and donkeys. In fact, 211 donkeys were taken in during this time. Because of public pressure to remove the donkeys from the streets and yards of Bonaire, the sanctuary advertised on the radio to pay residents NAf 15 for every "problem" donkey they took into their yards and called for removal to the sanctuary. As a result, car-donkey accidents were reduced drastically and the number of donkeys in the sanctuary rose to 280. However, space at the sanctuary was running out, so Melis, the ever-imaginative environmental entrepre-



Marina describes the daily feeding procedure for Commissioner Delno Tromp

neur, began a new fundraising campaign to purchase 60 hectares of land for NAf 600.000 with the contributions of only 10 principal donors.

On the additional land, Melis and Koopman created a "safari park," where visitors could drive through, visit the donkeys, have picnics at one of the five Hofis named for sponsors, observe the donkeys eating at the new feeding station, or look at the donkeycam. In addition, Koopman built an African-style round house for student volunteers who have been coming the last six years from the US, the United Kingdom, and The Netherlands to learn how to work with donkeys and to operate a sanctuary. As a result of Melis' and Koopman's efforts, the Bonaire Donkey Sanctuary has been featured in articles in newspapers in Toronto, Canada, and on-line magazines for Best Friends as well as on television in the US (Animal Planet) and in Holland (National Lottery).

In June 2008, Melis received the shocking news that the government was taking back the rental land to expand the airport and everything built would have to be removed. Adding to their frustration was the reluctance of the government to respond to any of her letters on exact deadlines or about extending the water lines from the well. With over 300 donkeys to provide for at a cost of \$3,360 a month for hay, \$3,350 for feed, and \$1,400 for veterinary care (castrations, illness, injury), Melis had no choice but to raise even more money to rebuild the entire sanctuary, including their home. The result of Koopman's work (assisted by Genaro Anthony) is spectacular: a salina with flamingos and other water birds; a palapa overlooking the salina; a new store with a kitchen that will be selling Dutch snacks; a new stable for injured and sick donkeys; a new orphans' yard; even the observation tower has been moved.

Just recently Commissioner Delno Tromp was the first ever government official to witness personally the daily operations of the sanctuary. His assessment was glowing: "I'm impressed with the new construction. And it is not only an improved tourist attraction but also a nice place for locals to visit, relax, and enjoy nature. It feels so nice to be in nature like this."

Melis' work is far from over, however, as there are still approximately 150 donkeys roaming Bonaire, and more people



Director Marina Melis shows student interns, Aafke and Robin, how to feed the orphans. These interns come from the Helicon School in Den Bosch, Holland.

are demanding that they too be removed. But that means more funding (possibly from VROM in Holland if the Bonaire government makes the request) to pay for veterinarians from Holland to capture them and for more land to house them. Another snafu came two months ago when the airport began insisting on taking land owned by Donkeys Help Foundation for no compensation or no land trade. So Melis had to seek the help of a pro-bono lawyer in Holland and Ernst Wesselius on Bonaire in the hope of negotiating a fair exchange. Finally, the cost of water must be now added to the donkeys' bill as the government has

ordered the natural well be closed.

In spite of all the trials and tribulations Melis has experienced since rescuing that first donkey, she is still optimistic: "We hope finally to solve all these issues and hope for a better understanding and cooperation for the sake of Bonaire and her donkeys."

The official opening of the new Sanctuary is the week of June 15. Everyone is welcome!  
 ■ Story & photos by Pauline E. Kayes



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# Price Tagging Nature

In a meeting last week Island Governor, Glenn Thodé, together with island Commissioner of Nature and Economic Affairs Delno Tromp, kicked off a project to determine the value of nature to the economy of Bonaire. **The new project is titled "What is Bonaire's Nature Worth?"**

Working together on the study are the RCN, STINAPA- Bonaire, the Department for Physical Planning and Management (DROB), Tourism Corporation Bonaire, (TCB), Dutch Caribbean Central Bureau of Statistics, *Vrije Universiteit* of Amsterdam, the University of Wageningen and the Advice Bureau WKICS.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs Agriculture and Innovation is financing this very important study for Bonaire. Besides, the World Nature Fund IUCN Netherlands Committee is also supporting this project. The first step is estimated to cost €60.000.

## Discussion:

With the addition of the BES islands as part of The Netherlands the country's biodiversity more than doubled, so it becomes even more vital to determine the value of this biodiversity. Ton Akkerman of the RCN said that the Dutch vision is to "connect Nature with economics." These two topics do not stand separately but need to go hand in hand, especially on Bonaire where nature is an important factor in its economy. The biodiversity of life on earth must be maintained. It is important for the islands of the Dutch Caribbean to make correct decisions on the basis of the value of nature. The project, "What's Bonaire Nature Worth?" offers the means to support this decision making.

Because the value which nature provides to the economy of Bonaire has never been



*Lady of the Night Cactus—  
Native to Bonaire*

expressed in terms of money, its true economic value has not been included when making policy decisions. Until now, no price tag has been put on Bonaire's natural resources. It is clear that the economy of Bonaire is heavily dependent on what a healthy environment offers both on the sea and on land. There is lots of pressure on the island's environment because of the changing climate, real estate development and pollution even though there are several protected natural areas on the island

That's why it's extremely important for Bonaire to know Nature's value to its economy for future development plans on the island. In this manner Bonaire can justify a sustainable existence. Local environmentalists feel this project is long overdue, especially since Bonaire seems to be already pursuing mass tourism and may have lost its integrity regarding conservation. ■ *Hendrik Wuyts*



## BONAIREAN VOICES

### A FUTURE TO CHANGE OUR WAY OF THINKING

In some ways we are still in the past and are reluctant to make any progress towards the future. The past is a time to remember, to learn from our errors and then to move forward to a better future.

It can be hard sometimes to think about it even if it means we need someone to lean on to make those important changes.

**Mrs. Miralva Keli-Cicilia (48), Deputy/Commissioner for Social Affairs, Health Care, Culture, Sports and Economic Affairs** (photo above), helps us understand the changes ahead. Mrs. Keli-Cicilia is a person who likes to work hard to keep the integrity and Bonairean standards at a high level. She was born the eldest of four children of Antillean parents. Her mother, Myrna Cicilia-Lizarda, was born in Curaçao; her father, Octavio Cicilia, was born in Bonaire, son of the well-known Mr. Tavio St. Jago, owner of The Rose Inn pension and restaurant in Rincon.

Mrs. Mirelva Keli-Cecilia tells us, "With my experience I hope to make it possible that together we can work to make a difference.



Bonaire Government photo

Without breaking the rules we can make it better. I'm not a politician; I always avoid being involved in politics, but today I'm a commissioner assigned with a duty. Being part of a coalition I'll rely on my professionalism to do my job.

I applied for different jobs: here on Bonaire, St. Maarten and Curaçao. I chose Bonaire because Curaçao has too much confusion and you don't get the chance to work for the island, too many people fighting for a position. In Bonaire I can use my experience for a country in the process of development, most of which has been managed by Holland. As this development continues Bonaire needs rules that can fit with the island itself. With development we have to expect changes, so today we have to take advantage of these changes and give them a try.

The people of Bonaire have said what they want: they want to see their island progress. So we have to stop complaining and start thinking about what Bonaire really needs. If, in our opinion, management was deficient, we must use the existing situation, make an evaluation and show some trust. We must work on our trust with Holland and that Holland can trust us. Instead of thinking that we ourselves can do it, we need to give Holland a chance.

As commissioner in charge I have a tough job to bring back the trust. Who is responsible to guide a child who went completely off course? Is it the same one who gives it the liberty to go abroad? Rebuilding trust takes time. But if we are working seriously we can gain back Holland's trust. Things got out of

(Continued on page 17)

## Enjoy Our Reef Fishes

## Let's Not Eat Them

A message from  
**Caribbean reef pioneer  
CAPTAIN DON STEWART**

Remember, reef fishes include  
⊙ barracudas, ⊙ snappers  
and ⊙ groupers

Artwork by Dominique Serafini

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## BonQuiz #51

The statue in this photo is of a Patron Saint. The statue is located in downtown Playa (Kralendijk). This 'Saint' was born in Assisi in 1182 and is the founder of the Franciscan religious order. He's the patron saint of sales people, tailors, the poor, and all nature organizations.

**Q) Who is this Saint and where is his the statue located?**  
Answer on page 17

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



# 75 years for KLM on Bonaire



Hugo Gerharts, Simone Wickenhagen and Larry Gerharts at the reception

This month KLM celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first airplane landing on Bonaire with a reception at Rum Runners at Captain Don's Habitat. From the speeches it became clear that the KLM-Bonaire relationship is more than just business... it's a story of three generations of Bonaire visionaries.

Bonaire didn't receive a KLM flight until Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 1936, two years after the KLM's first historic trans-Atlantic Holland-Curaçao flight. On that day, KLM landed its Fokker F. XVIII trimotor "Oriol" on the grazing area near Subí Blanco (now a ball field on the Rincon Road).

KLM Caribbean General Manager Simone Wickenhagen recalled that on that date, KLM became united with the Gerharts family as well. KLM's first representative on the island, "L.D." Gerharts and his five-year-old son Hugo welcomed the first plane's crew and passengers. "L.D." died years ago, but Hugo and his son, Larry (initials also L.D.) were on hand at the reception and spoke of their experiences with KLM.

Larry Gerharts, who now heads Bonaire Air Services which handles KLM flights, explained the three miracles that have allowed KLM service to Bonaire to flourish:

"**Miracle 1**-Founder of KLM, our Mr. Plesman, gave orders to add Bonaire to KLM's network. At that time there was absolutely nothing - no air strip to land nor passengers willing to fly! But still, on 9 May 1934 an aircraft landed at Subí Blanco.

**Miracle 2** happened in February 1991. Hugo Gerharts was in a KLM meeting with Dries van Luik, Andre van den Ouwelen and some others. Suddenly, a decision was taken to fly a jumbo jet to Bonaire on 20 April, just two months later. In those days Bonaire had some aviation muscle to handle belly airplanes, but there was absolutely nothing to get the containers out of this huge DC10, nor to supply it with power/electricity, No very-high steps for passengers, no toilet cart, water cart, air starter or dollies for containers, etc...

But still, on Saturday 20 April 1991 KLM's DC10 'Maurice Ravel' landed. A crowd of thousands stopped all traffic around Flamingo airport.

**Miracle 3** took place nine years later. Around the year 2000 - somewhere on the 7th floor of KLM's head office, somebody was staring at a file named: "Bonaire 4 flights per day". No, not per week - DAILY!

Impossible.

But still, on Monday 2 December 2002 our flamingos heard the blue *warawara di motor* land and take off 4 times.

- At 2:08 KL742 arrived from Lima, Peru, on her way to Amsterdam
- Two hours later KL753 arrived from Amsterdam and left to Guayaquil, Ecuador.
- At 2 in the afternoon KL754 from Quito was sent on her way to Amsterdam
- An hour later KL741 from Schiphol, landed and on her way to Lima.

Almost 1,100 passengers - about 10% of

our population- touched our Flamingo Airport in 4½ hours handling time that day.

Well yes... very different figures than those old days when it began:

In 1936 - Five flights were flown, and a WHOPPING... 26 passengers were carried! Our priest, nuns and a rum-smelling adventurer were the payload. Landing on an unpaved strip where goats and donkeys roamed made for extra excitement. The first injured patient made it just in time into the Curaçao hospital.

In 1944 - 123 flights carried 2,861 passengers. In other words: every three days we had a flight.

It was in 1954 that Bonaire was rewarded more with a daily flight (413 flights, 9,936 passengers).

In 1991 the first DC10. There was the time pressure to buy equipment, ship it and train staff to handle a DC10 in 60 days. I can assure you -today this would be impossible!

In 2002: Fuel pier had to be finished and the construction barge was used as a pier. Chairs for the Transit hall were unpacked two days prior to the arrival of our historic KL754 on 02 Jun 2002. There was no catering."



"Business Class" seats on the Fokker  
Internet photo



Refueling in 1936  
Internet photo

Beginning November 1st, KLM will fly daily between Amsterdam and Bonaire (two days via Curaçao and five days via Aruba), "which is an enormous achievement for an island this size," added KLM regional general manager Wickenhagen.

■ G.D. /Notes from Larry Gerharts

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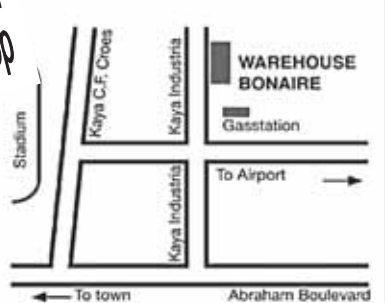


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Photo taken at Kas di Regata by Spike Stapert

►STINAPA reports that **Portuguese Man of War jellyfish have been spotted around Bonaire**, driven in by the unusual wind conditions. They are not very numerous and relatively easy to spot and should be avoided.

► **The 7<sup>th</sup> Starboard Pro Kid's Freestyle Championship Bonaire 2011 is set for June 17-19 at Sorobon, Lac Bay.** It will consist of a large number of events for children of all ages from toddlers on up. Bonaire has long produced talented windsurfers including Olympians and world champions like Patun Saragosa, Kiri Thodé Bjorn Saragoza, Amado Vrieswijk and Youp Smit. This Pro Kids event will showcase Bonaire's future champs. Plan to spend the weekend at Sorobon and take part in the fun. For more info contact Derchlien Vrolijk at 786-4339 or email [derchlienvrolijk@gmail.com](mailto:derchlienvrolijk@gmail.com)



Kiri Thodé

►**Last week Curaçao-based airline InselAir received its fifth MD-80 jet aircraft.** Currently, the InselAir fleet consists of eight aircraft – five MD-80 jets and three prop-jet Bandeirantes – and is awaiting the arrival of three Fokker-50 aircraft, which will increase the InselAir fleet to 11.

►**The aviation sector on Aruba continues to expand.** Tiara Air and



InselAir recently concluded a cooperation agreement and announced a large number of new routes. Aruba Airlines started flying last year and now another, new commercial airline is on its way, "Fly Aruba." There are no aircraft yet, but Fly Aruba is busy with lease options for a Dash Q400 with a capacity of 78 passengers and a Boeing-737 with a maximum capacity of as many as 215 seats. The company's website is [www.flyaruba.net](http://www.flyaruba.net).

Although Aruba Airlines started in October last year, its operations were suspended in February for six months.

►**Your Scuba Store recently opened its doors with a new shop at Kaya Grandi 70** (the site of the former Last Bite Bakery). Owners Rob and Ella are there every day/seven days a week from 8:30am till 5:30 pm and welcome you in English, Dutch, Papiamentu, Spanish or German. Rob is a dive instructor from Holland who has lived and worked in the dive business on Bonaire for over a decade and is very skilled when it comes to repairing your broken gear or technical advice. Ella, with her beautiful Aruban smile, is the retail specialist with experience in selling all dive gear and accessories on both Bonaire and Aruba.

►**Have you tried the special order Rijsttafel at Norca's Deli Café yet?** When you make reservations for from 2 to 12 persons you will have an exceptional, custom made "Rijsttafel" (an Indonesian "rice table") just for you. Norca does this only by reservation and it starts at 6 pm. Norca's is open Monday through Saturday. See her ad on page 15.

►Welcome to **Beverly Aesthetics** at the Plaza Resort and to **Day Spa Face & Body by Nubia** at Sand Dollar as returning advertisers. Both of these businesses have established themselves as the top in their different specialties. Check the ads in this edition and visit them soon.

►**KonTiki Beach Resort** recently received the **Travel Life Gold Award.** Travel Life is a worldwide independent auditor on behalf of the international federation of tour operators, which represents 13 national associations in Europe. The award was granted after a series of inspections were conducted on behalf of the federation of tour operators. Questions were also drawn up that required answering. Of the total 492 points, KonTiki Beach Bonaire got 479. KonTiki Beach Bonaire owners Miriam and Martin van Bekkum were very happy with the distinction.

►**It's now possible to get marine electronics fixed on Bonaire.** Budget Marine Bonaire announced that Lex Ruijter from Island Boat Services has completed the training and exams to become a certified technician for Ray Marine Electronics. Budget Marine carries this line of Marine Electronics, including GPS, Chart Plotters, Fish Finders, Radars, Auto Pilots, VHF Radios and more. You can contact Lex at [lex@ibsbonaire.com](mailto:lex@ibsbonaire.com) and Budget Marine at [Bonaire@budgetmarine.com](mailto:Bonaire@budgetmarine.com)

►Cruise ship season may be over but the **Crafts Markets in Wilhelmina Park are still going on every Friday until 2 pm.** Arts and crafts works, jewelry, and excellent Surinamese food are just some of the items you'll find there.

►**Remember the Farmers' Market at Kriabon, Saturday, 28 May.** See Happenings, pg 16. Buy healthy Bonaire-grown food.

►**Correction:** In the last edition on page 8 we had the names in the photo for the Magic Ed Anniversary article wrong. They should have been: Luis, Lourdes, Ed, Giovanni. ■ G./L.D.

## Letters to the Editor

### VALUE OF BONAIRE'S NATURE

Dear Editor:

What is nature worth? It is the new question for our decision makers on Bonaire. We (dive instructors, dive guides and nature lovers) work FOR nature. Many resort owners, managers and business people don't even remember or have never been down on the reefs.

I have friends down there. I know them by name - fish and corals - I know where they live and I even know how old they are.

But every time I go diving one of them is missing or a home is destroyed or infected and slowly dying.

I've spent 15 years diving on Bonaire, 8,547 dives, and taken 547,500 minutes of footage - 380 days of underwater film on 9,125 videotapes.

Do you know how many times I filmed Charly the Tarpon or Ricky the Grouper, Stinky the trunkfish, George the puffer, Barney the Turtle, Ziggy the trumpet fish, Terry the Snapper, Poppy the Cow Fish, Franz the French Angel Fish ...?

What about the double mushroom coral heads at Angel City housing the family of Black Margate snappers and Schoolmaster snappers, or the two coral heads at Forest, or the massive rope sponge which used to be at Gerry's? Well, each and every one of them are gone!

So do I know the value of the coral reefs? I like to believe that I do.



Can you put an economic value on a living organism or on the complex ecosystem? I don't think so. Without the balanced system of fauna and flora, we humans cannot survive. The quality of human lives depends on the quality of nature, and our nature needs a lot of help. It's struggling to survive. It needs more than just protection; it needs to be saved.

There is a saying:

"To encounter is a privilege, not a right."

Bonaire is for the privileged not for the masses.

I am still awaiting a study by the BC or RCN, STINAPA, DPPM, TCB, VUA, WKICS, MEAAI, IUCN, when they will put the value of nature above the dollar.

If you want to learn what the economy has done for our nature these two new films will introduce to you:

Google on YouTube: "Bonaire=Mercury+Lead" and "Who Killed Angel City?"

Hendrik Wuyts, Scuba Vision Films

## Latin Music Classics

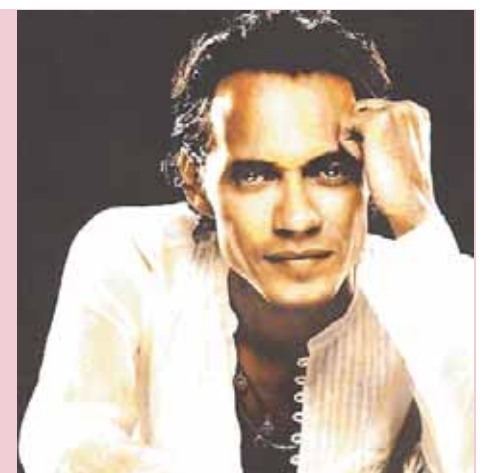
Marc Anthony, born in 1969 in New York City to Puerto Rican parents, is an American musician, singer-songwriter, actor and producer.

Anthony began his career in 1988 as a session Freestyle vocalist. After 1992, he changed his style from Freestyle music to salsa and other Spanish music, inspired by the music of Tito Puente, Rubén Blades and Juan Gabriel.

Nowadays, Marc Anthony is the top selling tropical salsa artist of all time. The two-time Grammy and three-time Latin Grammy-winner has sold more than 30 million albums worldwide. He is best known for his Latin salsa numbers and ballads. He has been married to superstar Jennifer Lopez since June 4, 2004.

### Jody's Music Quiz

Last week's answer: "Marc Anthony" is the husband of Jennifer Lopez. This week's winner is B. Poyck. He can pick



up the free CD at Jody's on Lagoen Hill #18.

**This week's question:** Who is the singer of the famous hit: "Let's Get Loud" ?

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

## Jody's

Jody's Fashion & Music

Jody's is the well-known fashion shop for men and women at Lagoen Hill. In their collection they have 100%

original brands like: Nike, G-Star, Replay, Lacoste, Zuccherro, A Priori and Zulu.

At the Friday crafts 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.



# Monty's Misadventure

In this week's tale of parrot escapades we had hoped to bring you news of Al and Sue's remarkable romance. However, so incredible and inconceivable have Monty's recent exploits been that they must be shared first...

It had been a rainy morning, as is so often the case these days on Bonaire. Monty's feathers were all wet but as rain slowed he climbed to the treetop and sat in the early rays of the rising sun. Just like his hero Nelson Mandela, Monty had not grown bitter from being "inside" but instead he had become a respectful Lora, grateful for the things he had. As he sat there in the morning sun he was thankful for his freedom.

As is normal following rain the Loras were a little late getting into the swing of things that morning. In fact it was Fat Sally and her friend, The Darling, who were the first to break in to song. Having been caged at the age when they were first learning calls and having not had loving parents to guide them through their adolescence, Fat Sally, The Darling and the released Loras all sounded a little different from the wild Loras. It was as if they came from London; they sounded funny! Their quirky calls were beautiful nonetheless and their unique voices rang out across the otherwise peaceful morning.

The wild Loras heard these strange voices in the distance. They responded with their fluent and melodic calls. By contrast these birds sounded like they came from North Yorkshire, a lovely place in Northern England (you really should visit) where people are renowned for their sexier-than-French accents and clear annunciation. These wild Loras flew towards the release site in intrigue.

Sitting on top of the tree Monty was the first to see the four wild Loras arriving. He called out and welcomed them. They made a large loop over the release aviary and landed perfectly. There was mum, dad and their two children who were now just over a year old, the same age as Monty.

Monty looked into the soft eyes of the young girl Lora and he was instantly in

love. Of course being a young male Lora he didn't really know the difference between love and lust, but in that moment Monty wanted to Tango with this girl as if they were in Buenos Aries.

The wild family stayed at the aviary only briefly; they chatted a little but then quietly said they would be on their way. Monty decided he would join them. It had been several weeks since his release. He had explored the surrounding area and grown fit. This seemed like a good opportunity to spread his wings even further and see more of Bonaire. And so when the family departed Monty quickly said his goodbyes and began a new journey.

Monty first flew with the family over familiar foothills, but soon he was over foreign territory. It was as if they were on a road trip, all riding along on their Harley Davidsons with huge grins. In that moment Monty wished to have a Harley. If he wasn't a parrot he would have rented one from the Bonaire Motorcycle Shop and taken his new girl out for a spin.

Together the five passed over houses and seemingly endless concrete. Monty couldn't understand why even in their gardens the people had cut down so many of the Bonairean trees only to replace them with worthless exotic palms and sterile white stones. Monty's raging hormones and lust for his new friend were balanced with deep sadness for what people were doing with his heritage.

Monty's pensive state was interrupted when he realised he knew where he was. He had seen these buildings before, only from a different angle. He familiarity was of course based on the fact he had looked at these very buildings endlessly, day in, day out, for many months before being given his second chance. Then a Lora called and he recognised it as his old friend, Harriet, who was still at LVV. Monty swerved downward and landed atop the aviary to talk with his friends. The family turned and also joined him but being a little more cautious around human structures they stayed further away in a nearby tree.

Monty's old friends hardly recognised



Monty on the move

him at first. Then a cacophony of excitement erupted. It was an incredible sound, like a phenomenal rendition of Jimmy Hendrix's Purple Haze. The kind you might only be lucky enough to happen upon in a jam session in a small Bonairean bar. When he explained all the things that had happened to him his friends were in awe and envious. They didn't know that one day they too would have a Second Chance.

What followed was the result of a bizarre and bewilderingly unfortunate set of coincidences. Dear reader, the events that followed were so inconceivable that you would be forgiven for thinking they were made up. Of course this is not the case—the following description is entirely truthful.

On the previous day a flighty Lora had escaped from the aviary. The Ministry's Vet just so happened to be at LVV when Monty arrived. Seeing the Lora on the aviary the vet thought it was the aforementioned escapee and so he opened the aviary door, thinking the bird was hungry and would return inside for food. Monty, being a friendly Lora, popped inside the aviary to get closer to Harriet and the oth-

ers and have a proper catch up. No sooner had he entered the aviary then the door shut behind him, and only then did he realise his mistake. Spotting Monty's golden ring the vet realised Monty was who he was and not the afore mentioned escapee, but by then it was too late.

Monty's freedom was gone and so too was the lovely girl Lora he had just met, for she flew off as soon as the vet arrived. How could he have been so stupid? He had endured so much on his long walk to freedom. After having tasted a life where he was free to move in three dimensions and feel the wind in his feathers he didn't want to go back to being a real estate agent. Poor Monty felt sick. He had ruined everything. ■

Story & photo by Sam Williams

Conservationist Sam Williams has been involved with Bonaire's Loras for over seven years. Find out more [www.echobonaire.org](http://www.echobonaire.org)



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# The Sailors Who Never Left

## Part 4

### Living on the Rainbow

In the early 1990s, a German sailor sailed his self-built boat, Varedhuni, to Bonaire. Nearly 20 years later, he is still living aboard.

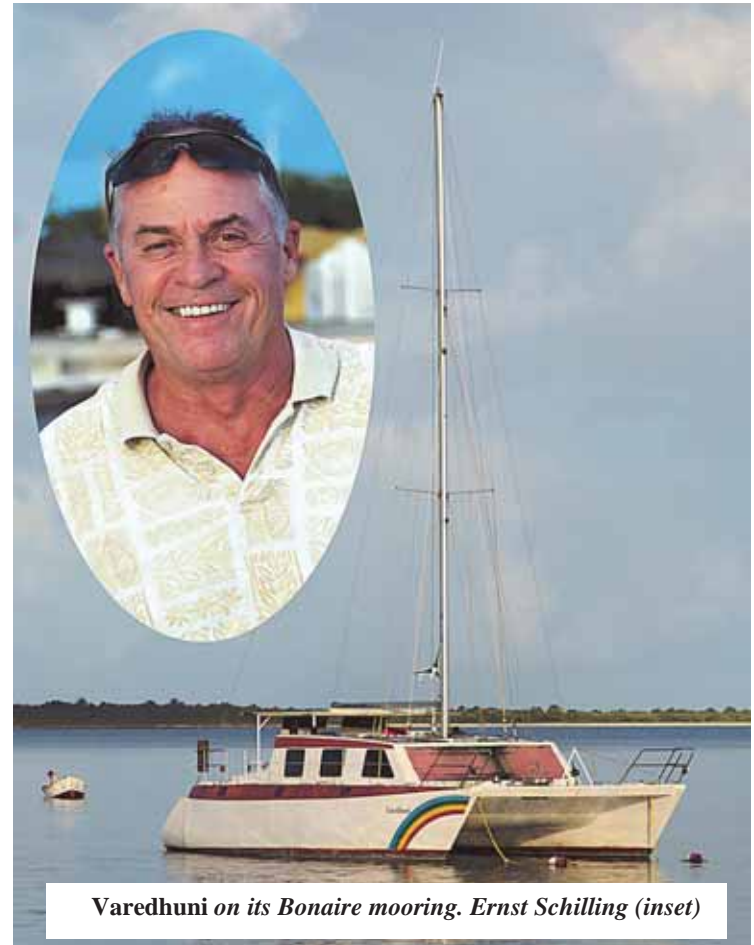
Two words describe how Ernst Schilling has shaped his future—self-determination. As a young man of 19, he chose to leave his native Germany for Switzerland in order to avoid a military draft lottery. But there was another reason for his departure, his Swiss girlfriend, Heidi.

Schilling moved to Heidi's hometown of Basil where they married. Soon after, the couple had their daughter, Barbara. Ernst worked for years as a lab technician developing new medicines for a Swiss drug company. Later in his career, he moved into the lucrative business of medical drug sales.

But nearly 20 years later something was missing in Schilling's life. He became disillusioned with the kickbacks medical professionals expected in getting new drug products placed on the market. It was about this time that his daughter, Barbara, had married a young German, Pieter Werdath. The newlyweds invited Ernst and Heidi to join them at one of their favorite vacation destinations, the Maldiv



Ernst Schilling (L) and Pieter Werdath (R) in Basil, Switzerland, during construction of Varedhuni



Varedhuni on its Bonaire mooring. Ernst Schilling (inset)

Islands of the Indian Ocean.

The four made multiple trips to the Maldives where Schilling learned to scuba dive. Despite their age differences, the two couples would dream about doing extensive world travels together. "We had a plan to go by sailboat,"

explains Ernst. "None of us knew how to sail, but that didn't stop us. We even gave our future boat its name, Varedhuni, which means 'rainbow' in Dhivehi, the language of the Maldives. There was a dive boat there with that name and it had a rainbow painted on the bow.

That is where it all started."

That was in 1984. After two years of planning, they chose a German catamaran design to build. Ernst and Pieter quit their full time jobs and started construction of the twin hull craft while the women

continued working their conventional jobs. "People told me I could never build the boat in three years," laughs Ernst. "They said it would take a minimum of five years, maybe seven. At that moment, I was a typical German and said, 'I want to get out of here, and

(Continued on page 17)

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LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

**House for sale.** Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot 166, 796-3637,  
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**Have a place to rent or sell?**

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**For rent: Fully furnished cozy apartment in Belnem** near the ocean. Hot water, a/c, full kitchen, patio, terrace with garden. 110 & 220 volt and internet.  
**Phone: 796-5530**

**FOR RENT Apartment.** 1 person \$50/night 2 persons \$60/night plus room tax. available June 03.  
[famouscaptain@gmail.com](mailto:famouscaptain@gmail.com).

MISCELLANEOUS

**For Sale: Discounted Double (2-pers.) bed** 140x190 semi-orthopaedic mattress including box spring and bed frame \$255. Comes with a free set of sheets, ready to sleep. Please call 796-5530

**Sunday 19 June- 50% discount on paintings**, to make place for new at Kaya Utrecht 25, Hato from 11-5 pm. Monique Reekers.

**Yokohama Geolander tires -size 30X9.5X15** With KMC 6 lug aluminum wheels. Fits Toyota, Mitsubishi trucks etc. All 4 in Good condition  
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**Range-Rover Classic 3500cc V8 for sale.** \$ 1250. Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot 166, 796-3637,  
[digitalis1956@hotmail.com](mailto:digitalis1956@hotmail.com)

**For sale: inflatable boat, Achilles, Yamaha outboard 15hp** and boat trailer for sale. \$ 1750. Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot 166, 796-3637,  
[digitalis1956@hotmail.com](mailto:digitalis1956@hotmail.com)

**For sale: Giant Boulder mountain bike**, front shocks, V-brakes, \$ 275, Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot 166, 796-3637,  
[digitalis1956@hotmail.com](mailto:digitalis1956@hotmail.com)

**For sale: Toyota 4Runner**, black, 1995, \$ 3500, Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot 166, 796-3637,  
[digitalis1956@hotmail.com](mailto:digitalis1956@hotmail.com)

**Writers/  
Reporters  
Wanted**

(paid by the word)

Email:  
[george@bonairenews.com](mailto:george@bonairenews.com)

**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 27	MAY	04:56 0.11 ft	08:24 0.24 ft	14:51 -0.06 ft	21:43 0.76 ft	6:09	18:56
Sat 28		06:09 0.04 ft	09:25 0.14 ft	14:57 -0.02 ft	22:13 0.81 ft	6:09	18:56
Sun 29		07:19 -0.03 ft	10:50 0.05 ft	14:49 0.01 ft	22:44 0.85 ft	6:09	18:56
Mon 30		08:21 -0.11 ft	23:18 0.88 ft			6:09	18:56
Tue 31		09:13 -0.17 ft	23:54 0.91 ft			6:09	18:57
Wed 01	New Moon	09:58 -0.23 ft	JUNE			6:09	18:57
Thu 02		00:34 0.93 ft	10:35 -0.27 ft			6:09	18:57
Fri 03		01:16 0.94 ft	11:06 -0.29 ft			6:09	18:57
Sat 04		01:59 0.93 ft	11:32 -0.30 ft			6:09	18:58
Sun 05		02:45 0.89 ft	11:54 -0.30 ft			6:10	18:58
Mon 06		03:32 0.83 ft	12:16 -0.30 ft	18:38 0.36 ft	22:47 0.28 ft	6:10	18:58
Tue 07		04:21 0.73 ft	12:38 -0.29 ft	18:54 0.50 ft		6:10	18:59
Wed 08	First Quarter	00:28 0.25 ft	05:12 0.61 ft	13:01 -0.27 ft	19:22 0.66 ft	6:10	18:59
Thu 09		01:57 0.18 ft	06:07 0.47 ft	13:26 -0.26 ft	19:57 0.82 ft	6:10	18:59
Fri 10		03:19 0.09 ft	07:07 0.33 ft	13:55 -0.24 ft	20:37 0.96 ft	6:10	18:59
Sat 11		04:35 -0.02 ft	08:14 0.20 ft	14:25 -0.21 ft	21:20 1.07 ft	6:10	19:00
Sun 12		05:47 -0.12 ft	09:28 0.09 ft	14:56 -0.16 ft	22:06 1.14 ft	6:10	19:00
Mon 13		06:54 -0.21 ft	10:53 0.02 ft	15:30 -0.11 ft	22:54 1.17 ft	6:10	19:00
Tue 14		07:57 -0.28 ft	12:30 -0.00 ft	16:04 -0.05 ft	23:45 1.16 ft	6:11	19:00
Wed 15	Full Moon	08:54 -0.32 ft	14:20 0.03 ft	16:38 0.02 ft		6:11	19:01
Thu 16		00:37 1.12 ft	09:46 -0.35 ft			6:11	19:01
Fri 17		01:29 1.05 ft	10:33 -0.35 ft	17:14 0.19 ft	18:48 0.19 ft	6:11	19:01
Sat 18		02:20 0.95 ft	11:14 -0.33 ft	17:44 0.28 ft	20:43 0.26 ft	6:11	19:01
Sun 19		03:10 0.85 ft	11:50 -0.31 ft	18:15 0.38 ft	22:26 0.30 ft	6:11	19:02
Mon 20		03:58 0.73 ft	12:20 -0.27 ft	18:44 0.47 ft	23:58 0.30 ft	6:12	19:02
Tue 21		04:45 0.61 ft	12:46 -0.22 ft	19:12 0.57 ft		6:12	19:02
Wed 22		01:20 0.26 ft	05:30 0.49 ft	13:09 -0.17 ft	19:39 0.65 ft	6:12	19:02
Thu 23	L Quarter	02:34 0.21 ft	06:16 0.38 ft	13:27 -0.13 ft	20:06 0.73 ft	6:12	19:03
Fri 24		03:42 0.15 ft	07:04 0.27 ft	13:44 -0.09 ft	20:34 0.80 ft	6:13	19:03

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**THE KADASTER AND THE OFFICE OF THE KADASTER**

If you love Bonaire and are interested in Bonaire real estate you will soon hear about the Kadaster. The Kadaster is one of the most important people on Bonaire. The words Kadaster and the Office of the Kadaster are often used interchangeably. The Kadaster for Bonaire is Riency Holder. A special masha danki to the Kadaster for his help and cooperation in preparing this article.

The Kadaster and his office are responsible for the registration and maintenance of all records pertaining to land other than original deeds that are kept by the Notaris. The Kadaster is also responsible for registering major moveable items such as boats and planes. If you are used to the American or English system the Kadaster is similar to a Clerk and Recorder.

The Office of the Kadaster is undergoing tremendous change. In the next few months it will have one of the most modern and sophisticated data systems in the world. The plan is that by 10-10-11 anyone with a computer and Internet connection will be able to access, for a fee, the Kadaster's real estate database. Phase one will be on line May 31.

**KADASTERAL HISTORY**

Before 1800 forms of land registration in The Netherlands failed. The systems were very local in organization. Each town or area used different methods and procedures. The lack of consistency coupled with the desire to maintain local control and power doomed the hope for a national system of land registration.

When the Kingdom of Holland was incorporated into France in 1810 changes occurred immediately. France had become Europe's first major nation State. The burden of the Napoleonic wars drained the French treasury. The need for money caused France to impose its own very efficient land tax collection system on The Kingdom of Holland.

The basis for any land tax is an accurate land registration system. While the actual system is more complex the basis of having an equitable land tax system is to know who owns what and the exact nature of the land, e.g. farm, commercial, manufacturing, vacant, residential, mortgage or other liens, location of easements and rights of way etc.

After the French defeat at the Battle of Waterloo, the Kingdom of Holland continued to use the French Cadastral system. This was a matter of custom, as the system was not legally made part of Dutch Civil Law until 1825.

From the 1830s through the 1950s most of the changes in Holland and on Bonaire were evolutionary rather than revolutionary. Map making was refined but without major changes. Data was maintained in ledgers and on file cards.

The computer made revolutionary changes in the way data was gathered and maintained. It became much easier for



Recording land boundaries is the task of the Kadaster

the Kadaster's office to access and use the information and disseminate it on request.

A few years later with the proliferation of GPS /GIS, map making was revolutionized. Maps became extremely accurate. Maps also transitioned from two-dimensional to three-dimensional in both information and display of information.

While changes were immediately commenced in Holland, the changes and updating in Bonaire were smaller, slower and made over a longer period of time. All of that began to change in 2010.

**THE KADASTER TODAY**

Bonaire is in the process of putting in place an extremely sophisticated easy-to-use multifaceted land registration system. In a few months with the click of a mouse you will be able to locate every individual land parcel, access the owner and contact data, zoom in for a close up view or zoom out to see how it relates to the neighborhood. You will be able to access tax information seamlessly. Valuation and sales information will also be available. In time the database will include multiple exterior photos of all buildings on a property

In 1994, in recognition of the expanding role of the Kadaster, the law was changed in The Netherlands. The Kadaster became a "Self-Administering State Body." Its status is a legal public body that performs its work as an independent organization.

The changes in the Kadaster's office are so profound and numerous they will be the subject of separate articles in the coming months. ■

Anna & Art Kleimer

The Kleimers are founding partners of Bonaire Island Real Estate, B.V. In 1993 they were "America's Outstanding Realtors." Email:

[Anna@Bonaireislandrealestate.com](mailto:Anna@Bonaireislandrealestate.com) or [Art@Bonaireislandrealestate.com](mailto:Art@Bonaireislandrealestate.com)



**Super Sax Session**



We kindly remind you that the Vento do Norte extraordinary saxophone ensemble of 10 passionate saxophones will perform in concert at Plaza Resort Bonaire's Caribbean Point Terrace on Sunday, May 29 at 7:30p.m., presented by the Classical Music Board Bonaire.

Go to <http://www.classicalmusicbonaire.com/forms/ordertickets.html> to make your reservation.

Because a large number of visitors are expected, the concert will take place at the Caribbean Point Terrace (under cover, outside with 300 seats available), close by the Cacique Hall where we normally hold our regular concerts.

To avoid disappointment: **TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE** at Addo's Books & Toys, Flamingo Bookstore, Plaza Resort Bonaire Reception Desk; also available at our website: [www.classicalmusicbonaire.com](http://www.classicalmusicbonaire.com) (\$20 each in advance; \$25 at the event).

**Don't miss this very fine concert!** VENTO DO NORTE consists of 10 young and talented Portuguese musicians who combine a contemporary vision of chamber music with compelling modern interpretations. The group plays unique adaptations of Bach, Beethoven and Mendelssohn, transforms melancholic Fado music, stirs up rousing tangos by Piazzolla, and renders anew the burdened soul of James Brown – all played from memory with great passion. ■ Bob Gilmour

**Picture Yourself With The Reporter ... On Mountaintops in Kenya, Africa**



Frank Groeneweg's (61) first visit to Bonaire was in April 1978, and he and his wife fell in love with the island.

Since 1991 they have a nice winter house on the makamba pleintje (Bonaire Exclusief) in Playa and are very interested in all things happening on Bonaire and read *The Bonaire Reporter* online.

He writes, "I am a dentist and work as a Rotary volunteer in Kenya every year since 1997, but we always combine working with some safari or climbing action afterwards.

**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](mailto:info@bonairereporter.com).

Last December I trained on Bonaire by running along the coast, mountain biking and climbing our famous Mount Brandaris, to be fit for Mount Meru, 4500 meters high, followed by Mount Kilimanjaro at 6000 meters, which summit we reached on full moon on February the 18<sup>th</sup>.

The temperature at the top was - 15° Celsius so quite different from Bonaire's climate, although back at the foot of the mountain we had a nice 25° Celsius again." ■



# SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

## AIRLINES

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



## 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.

## 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

**Norca's Deli Café**, upstairs above Botika Bonaire on Kaya Grandi offers lunch plus a special "after hours" Rijsttafel dinner if you call ahead: **717-4376**

**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 three retail shops so you always get the best deals and can be 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 and WELLNESS - Also see Spa & Gym

**Essentials**—New health center brings together nutrition, health food and massage in a single location downtown. Beautiful new courtyard location just off the main street.

## 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](http://scubavision.info) or YouTube

## REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS



**Bonaire Island Real Estate**, B.V. Brings personal attention, experience and integrity to property transactions. In 1993 they were "America's Outstanding Realtors."



**Caribbean Homes**, "the Refreshing Realtor," specializing in luxury homes, condos, lots, rentals and property management. And now Yachts!



**Harbourtown Real Estate**, is Bonaire's oldest realtor, Visit their new office to list your home or buy a new one



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

## RETAIL

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

## SECURITY

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

## STORAGE

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



## 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?**

## SPAs/GYM

**BEVERLY Bio Aesthetics**—Offers several methods for treating skin challenges like Skin Tags, Facial Cholesterol Deposits, Milia, Acne Pimples, and more as well as massage and beauty care.

**Bon Bida Spa & Gym** World Class fitness and health facility—Classes, top notch machines, trainers. Day, monthly or annual rates.



**Nubia's Face and Body-** Professional massage therapy, facials, reflexology, lymph drainage, Shiatsu, deep tissue massage and other body and facial treatments

## 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](http://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.

**Fortnightly Advertisers in The Bonaire Reporter are included in this guide. Free!**  
To place an ad call **790-6518, 786-6518** or email [laura@bonairenews.com](mailto:laura@bonairenews.com)



# 10 Years of Art



Forever-young artist, gamine-faced Germaine Nijdam had a blowout of a party last Friday at her home-atelier to celebrate her 10 very successful years as creator-artist of G.N. Art. Her sculpture garden was packed with friends, collectors and admirers. Known originally as an artist and "Driftwood Art Pioneer" she's expanded her work to chairs, benches, shelves, lamps, tables, wind chimes. She's probably the most copied artist on the island.

But she is a true and serious artist and her new series of works in blue (an example above left) takes her work to another dimension. There's always a sense of whimsy, no matter what medium she chooses.

Guests at the party got to play artist as well, signing the big card (photo right) Germaine had laid out for them. A lot of talent and creativity showed up on that as well.

Congratulations, Germaine! ■

Story & photos by Laura DeSalvo

## Burger Competition and Klompen Auction

What do hamburgers and wooden shoes have in common? Find out on Sunday, May 29 at 11 a.m., Hotel Roomer (E.E.G. Boulevard 97, Belnem, Bonaire). Club Roomer will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tilmaster's Hamburger Competition and immediately thereafter Club Roomer Bonaire will auction off the most amazing collection of decorated "klompen" (wooden shoes) Bonaire has ever seen.

A maximum of 10 amateur Bonairean chefs will compete to produce "the best hamburger on the island." Judges of the contest will include Governor Glenn Thodé, Patricia Hessel, Wil Smith and Marvin Abdul (last year's grand prize winner). Prizes will be given to Bar-B-Q chefs of the top three burgers. The contestants will also sell their burgers at US \$ 3.50 each to hungry onlookers.

The hamburger competition will be followed by a silent and live auction of the decorated "klompen." Throughout the event, all of these wooden shoes will be on display for silent bidding to begin at 11 a.m., closing at 3 p.m. And 10 particularly festive "klompen" will be reserved for the live auction to begin at 4 p.m., Eddy Thielman, auctioneer extraordinaire.

Club Roomer gave away the 50 wooden shoes some weeks ago to members of the Club, Jong Bonaire, STINAPA, children of all ages and to a few talented local artists as well. During the week of May 23<sup>rd</sup>, all can admire many of the shoes in the display window of Addo's Books & Toys on Kaya Grandi.



Klompen

Proceeds of the auction will be used for a variety of charity events organized by Club Roomer.

The public is invited for this Sunday blast and big family day. Visit website: [www.clubroomerbonaire.org](http://www.clubroomerbonaire.org). ■

Story & photo Barbara Gilmour

Upstairs  
Above  
Botika  
Bonaire on  
Kaya  
Grandi



## Rijsttafel

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[WWW.dive-friends-bonaire.com](http://WWW.dive-friends-bonaire.com) Info@dive-friends-bonaire.com  
+599-717 29 29



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS

**Saturday, May 28—Farmers' Market at Kriabon (Amboina)** Fruits, vegetables, plants, chickens and other animals—all grown on Bonaire. Come early as products go fast. 8 am –noon

**Sunday, May 29**  
—**3<sup>RD</sup> Annual Tilimasters Hamburger Competition followed by Klompen Auction.** Sponsored by Club Roomer, at Hotel Roomer, EEG Blvd. #97, Belnem. More on page 16

—**Classical Music Board Bonaire presents Henk van Twillert and "Vento do Norte"**—premier saxophonists, Plaza Hotel. See pages 6 and 7

**Saturday, June 4**  
—**Rincon Big Monthly Marché**—Local food, gifts, handcrafts, BBQ, lots of friendly people. 8 am– 4 pm, Rincon town center.

—**Clean up Dive sponsored by Dive Friends and RBTT Bank.** Free air tanks from Dive Friends. More info call Anke at 717-2929 or cleanup@dive-friends-of-Bonaire.com. Potluck BBQ afterwards.

—**Monthly Flea Market**– Dare to Care playground, 2-6 pm. Rent a table for \$10. Information: Marissa Jansen (787-1103), Kim deRaadt (787-1475)

**June 2,3,4 and 5— BONAIRE JAZZ FESTIVAL:** More on page 20

**Week of June 15—Opening of Donkey Sanctuary,** on the paved road to Sorobon. See page 6

**June 17-19- 7th Starboard Pro Kid's Freestyle Championship** at Sorobon, Lac Bai– See page 9

## 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 in 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.

- **Bonaire Animal Shelter's "Garage Sale"** every Saturday, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Tel. 717-4989

- **Monthly flea market at "We Dare To Care" Playground, 1st Saturday of the month,** 2– 6 pm. Rent a table for \$10. Information: Marissa Jansen (Tel: 701-1103) or Kim de Raadt (Tel: 787-1475)

- **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 per person. Tel. 560-7539.

- **Soldachi Tours—See the real Bonaire and be transported back in time.** Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeke for more information—796-7870.

## Mondays

- **Soldachi Tours of Rincon,** the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria, 717-6435-best island tour value

- **Meet the Captain Night at Captain Don's Habitat Bar**– Get up close and personal with Bonaire's dive pioneer. The Captain will autograph your copy of his newest book Reef Windows.

## Tuesdays

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

## Wednesdays

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

## Thursdays

- **SGB High School Chez Nous Restaurant**– 12:30pm - 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, NA\$2,50, 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Crisita 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, Republiek. Services are held on Sunday mornings from 10am until 11:30am. Bible studies in English are on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

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

**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

## Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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(Continued from page 11)

I want to do it NOW!"

Six months after the construction started Ernst and Pieter went back to part time jobs but spent every free moment working on the catamaran. Ernst also took a course to secure a captain's license, which included theory and a three-week, hands-on, 2000-mile sail from the Canary Islands to France. The trip, however, was on a mono-hull sloop, not a catamaran. He was seasick for two weeks out of the three. "That was a moment when I really questioned what was I doing, but we had already started construction of *Varedhuni*."

The boat was completed three years to the day, exactly as the determined Ernst had predicted. The two couples had no fixed itinerary for their voyage although they had a vague goal of eventually cruising the Pacific. *Varedhuni* departed the Basil boatyard on the River Rhine with four people, three cats and an immediate plan to motor the river to the North Sea. The first day did not go smoothly.

"After a half hour on the Rhine we started getting a lot of water in the boat. A gasket broke around one of the motor shafts and water was pouring in. During construction, some experts had advised us that two, 12-hp motors were all we needed to power our 10-ton boat. Now we were down to only one 12-hp motor to deal with the river's current and we were fast approaching the first bridge on the route. This all happened about 15 minutes from Basil. We made it through the bridge OK, but stayed two days at a place just past the bridge for repairs."

After that auspicious start, things got better for the novice sailors. They motored the rest of the Rhine without mishap and finally raised sails for the first time in the North Sea. *Varedhuni* cruised to England, south to Portugal and eventually made landfall in the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa.

The crew stayed in the islands for two months waiting out the hurricane season, but by December, bad weather still remained. While delayed, they made many new friends, with whom Ernst called, "real sailors." In spite of the storms, some of these seasoned yachtsmen chose to leave, thinking that after a day or so they would break through the bad weather. They were wrong. "The boats would depart and just get beat up," recalls Ernst. "I would hear them on the marine radio. One had lost a jib sail, another their autopilot. I didn't trust the weather. The waves were 3-4 meters high. We waited. During my years of preparation, I had learned to read weather maps. That came in handy."

Schilling finally saw a break in the weather and pointed *Varedhuni* out to sea. One would expect the crew to be elated after all the delays, but the mood aboard was just the opposite. "It was hard to leave the Canaries," explains Ernst. "We knew that there was no way back anymore. That first day on the water, no one spoke to each other. Everyone was waiting for the other to say, 'Let's start the engine and go back.' But on the other hand, everybody wanted to continue the voyage, so we just didn't talk."

That silence finally broke on the second day and the crew got into the rhythms of passage making. Twenty-six days later they arrived in Barbados. The sailors were finally in the Caribbean, but their first look did not meet tropical paradise expectations. "We had arrived at night," continues Ernst. "The next morning was really disappoint-

ing. The shore was full of old, broken-down buildings. Those were our first impressions of the Caribbean after nearly a month at sea. But the Bajans, the people of Barbados, were so friendly that we ended up staying for two weeks."

The voyage continued to Saint Lucia where the crew spent two months. *Varedhuni* traveled the eastern Caribbean from Martinique to Grenada and then on to Venezuela. It was in Puerto La Cruz that Ernst learned about a dive instructor job in Cuba. They set sail north but had plenty of time to stop and visit islands along the way. One of the port stops was Bonaire. All four loved the island so they decided to stay a few weeks. "Bonaire was everything," says Ernst. "It was so clean. The water was amazing. If there were 10 boats in the harbor, it was crowded and the people were great."

One person that Schilling met early on was Gaston Chirino, owner of the seaside Kant'i Awa Bar that is still in operation today. Gaston saw Ernst with empty jerry cans in search of water one morning and offered free rainwater from his cistern. Gaston told him to come back anytime if he ran out. They remain friends to this day.

Within 24 hours on Bonaire, Ernst was offered a job as a dive instructor at the now defunct Sunset Beach Dive Center. The crew decided to stay the season and forget about Cuba. A few months later the dive shop needed a mechanic so Pieter Werdath got a job. Later, his wife Barbara started working as a dive instructor at the dive center. Before the crew realized it, one season had led to another. "We talked several times about leaving," tells Ernst, "but everybody was happy. So we stayed."

After several years, however, that happiness vanished. Heidi never made the transition to island life. She and Ernst divorced and then Heidi returned permanently to Switzerland. Barbara broke up with Pieter after she met a Swiss dive instructor. The couple left for the Maldives to work in the dive industry there. To this day, they live on islands working on boats or at dive resorts.

The remaining two sailors stayed on Bonaire, living together on *Varedhuni* for another year. Pieter then moved to land and met Pam Teitel. They later married and are now owners of Budget Marine.

Ernst Schilling was employed at the Sunset Beach Dive Center until it closed. He later worked at Captain Don's Habitat as a dive instructor and eventually ran the photo shop. He stopped working three years ago.

During his stint at Captain Don's, Ernst had *Varedhuni* moored in front of the resort and continued his life on board. After leaving Habitat, he moved the catamaran back to the same place in Kralendijk Harbor where she had landed in 1993. Ernst and the boat had come full circle.

"There will be a time as I get older that I will move on land. But still, living on the boat gives me that feeling of freedom. If I don't like it tomorrow, I drop the line and go."

But for Ernst Schilling, feeling freedom on Bonaire has never been a problem. He remains, along with Pieter Werdath, a sailor who never left. ■

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



## DuoFest Winners Represent Bonaire

Our first finalists' winners of the DuoFest 2011 on *Free-winds*, Miss Nethanja Bendt (20) and Miss Natasha Anthony (30) (at right) are in full training. They also won the prize for the best presentation, most popular and the best composition by Mr. Sigfried Molina who is Nethanja's and Natasha's coach. The duet will be representing



Siomara Albertus photo

Bonaire on Saturday, May 28, at the Caribbean Gospel Festival in Curaçao at WTC with the song, "Now I Know." Nethanja will sing as a soloist the song "My Savior," composed by Mr. Sigfried Molina. The other duet representing Bonaire is the absolute winner of the festival, Miss Nina and Mr. Beto. On Wednesday, May 25, Nethanja, Natasha and Sigfried Molina will depart to Curaçao for all the preparations, and Saturday, May 28, will be the big day.

Natasha has some advice for the people on Bonaire: "We need to appreciate our own people, to believe in and support our talent who are representing Bonaire. I'm sad and disappointed that we didn't get any sponsor to cooperate with our trip."

Bonaire has a lot of talent that needs to come forward and develop their abilities."

Nethanja adds, "Always be you. Stand up and stand out for your Island. This November another song festival will be held and we hope that a lot of people will participate and show their talents."

For months these ladies have been coached by Sigfried Molina and Giovanni Mercera. Don't hesitate to contact them for any advice when it comes to music. If you want to participate in the next song festival, do so. You can contact them at the Music School at Kaya Kachi Craane 6 or phone 523-9161 or E-mail [sigfried-molina@hotmail.com](mailto:sigfried-molina@hotmail.com).

Siomara Albertus

*Bonairean Voices* (Continued from page 7) hand and we must start asking what we as Bonaireans really want. It is a process that takes some years to rebuild in this country.

We as Bonaireans need to feel that today we are getting the opportunity to improve our way of life. There's a better future for Bonaire, for all those living on Bonaire and those yet to come. We can create a better community for our own people and those who want to come back home. Today we don't have that possibility for our own people who want to return to Bonaire, their birthplace. If we work hard on the improvement of our island we can make Bonaire a more attractive place for our own people. We have to remember that most of our professionals are aging and we need young Bonairean blood to occupy their jobs."

All Bonaireans expect the best for Bonaire, so indeed we need to work for a better future. ■ Siomara Albertus

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



## BonQuiz #51 Answer

Q) Who is this Saint and where is his statue located?

Answer: It's a statue of Francis of Assisi located at the convent, "old hospital," on Kaya LD Gerharts.

Question on page 7



## 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.

### Sudoku Solution

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

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



# Pet of the Week

“Lily Marlene” is a pretty fancy name for this funny little pup you might say. But there’s a reason, says the Bonaire Animal Shelter staff. She a tiny little creature but she has an enormous personality and is such a character and is so affectionate. Her face looks like a Meerkat’s and she must have some Chihuahua ancestor there someplace. This little diva, Lily Marlene, was found hanging around a fish shop and brought into the Shelter. She’s about a year old and is in perfect health, having been examined by the vet, given her tests, worming and shots. You may see her and the other adoptees at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 to 1 and 3 to 5. Tel. 717-4989. Website: [www.BonaireAnimalShelter.com](http://www.BonaireAnimalShelter.com).



Lily Marlene

In this column we often talk about the Good Samaritans who find homeless dogs and bring them into the Shelter. Recently a man in Hato lost his dear dog whom he’d adopted from the Shelter. He contacted *The Reporter* to put in a notice about his missing dog and spread the word in his neighborhood. Just before *The Reporter* went to press and after the dog had been gone for a whole week the man



Happy to be home again

checked at 6 am to see if she were there. Nothing. But at 7:30am he opened the door and found his missing pet, sitting in her usual place in the garden. But the amazing thing was that the dog was perfectly groomed, had been well fed, with not even a tick on her. “If she had been running in the mondi,” he said, “she’d be in terrible condition. But someone – a Good Samaritan – must have been feeding her and taking good care of her. I am so thankful to whoever it was and to have her back!”

### Trash to Treasures – Bonaire Animal Shelter’s Pakus di Pruga

Have you visited the Shelter’s Pakus di Pruga yet? It’s the Weekly Garage Sale at Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar across from Brandaris Café. Volunteers staff the shop from 8 am to 5 pm every Saturday. You never know what you’ll find there but there are always plenty of books, clothes, household items...and more.

If you have unwanted items to donate, you may drop them off at the Shelter or if they’re small, like books, you may bring them to the Garage Sale on the Saturday.

Volunteers are needed for the shop too. If you can spare a few hours on Saturdays it would be much appreciated. Plus it’s a fun group to work with! Call the Shelter at 717-4989 for more information. ■ Laura DeSalvo

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# Bubbles From the Biologist

## Did You

**Know...** The long spiral jellies you see in the ocean near the coast on Bonaire are called **siphonophores**. Interestingly, they're not one animal; they are a collection of animals. What this means is that they are comprised of multiple **zooids** which all attach to each other instead of living independently. Zooids (single animal part of a colonial animal) do not aggregate together to create a colony. Instead, they are created by budding from the primary zooid. The primary zooid develops from a fertilized egg. Each zooid has a particular purpose (some capture food, some bud, some defend the colony). Also, each zooid is dependent on the others to perform tasks it is not specialized to do. Human cells are specialized and grouped together into tissues and organs. Similarly, siphonophores are made up of specialized zooids which are organized on a colonial level. Many similarities can be drawn between humans and these intricate spiral jellies you might swim into on Bonaire. Beware! Giant siphonophores can reach lengths up to 130 feet!. ■ Grace Giampietro

Photo : [www.abovetopsecret.com](http://www.abovetopsecret.com)



giant siphonophore

Giampietro, from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, studies Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management. Currently, she’s spending this semester studying tropical marine conservation with CIEE Research Station Bonaire. Throughout many of her dive and snorkeling experiences she’s come across long spiral jellies that are suspended in mid-water and wanted to know more about them.



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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

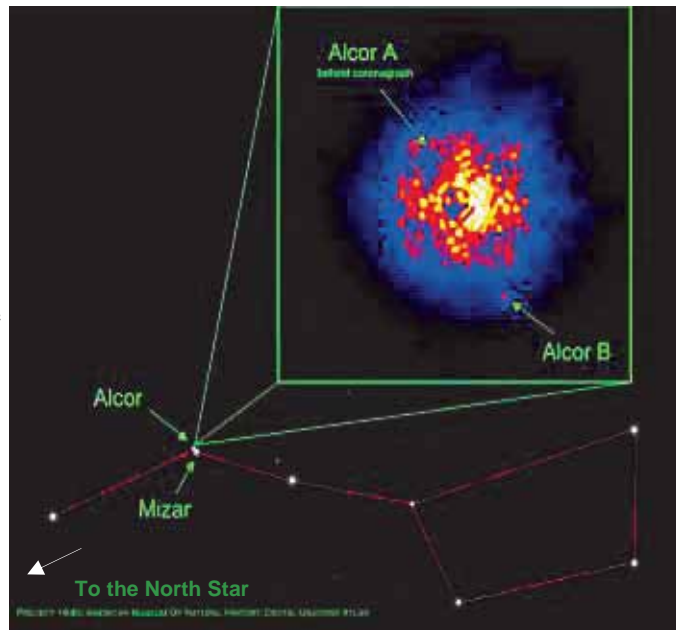
## A Quintuple Star

Have you ever heard the story about the horse on the handle of the **Big Dipper**? Well it's a good one.

Face due north any spring evening before midnight. And depending on the exact hour, the Big Dipper will be high up off the horizon its "handle" pointing to the North Star. Four stars trace out its cup and three stars make up its handle. But we're going to pay attention to what looks like to most people the one star at the bend of the handle, a star named **Mizar**.

Now although you have undoubtedly seen this star many times, have you ever looked at it really close up? Because if you do look at it really close up you will see that it is not just one star but two. Indeed, right next to Mizar you can see a slightly dimmer star, a star named **Alcor**, which in Arabic means "the lost or friendless one." Now centuries ago it was said that these two stars, bright Mizar and dimmer Alcor, were used as a kind of ancient eye exam for a famous sultan's army. If a recruit could see both stars he was in, but if he couldn't he was out. I kind of question the validity of that story, however, because most people can see both stars. Although admittedly without my glasses I wouldn't have made the cut.

At any rate, long ago these two stars became popularly known as "The Horse and the Rider," bright Mizar being the horse and dimmer Alcor being the friendless rider. And you can see them for yourself any night you can see the Big Dipper. And there our ancient eye test ends. But it doesn't end for modern eyes of a different kind, the eyes of telescopes and spectroscopes, because if we look at



Alcor, the rider, using a spectroscope we would see that this so-called friendless one is not so friendless after all. In fact Alcor has a companion rider, another star invisible to the naked eye, thus making Alcor two riders on Mizar the horse. But that's not exactly true either because if we look really close at Mizar we discover that Mizar is also not just one star, not even two stars or three stars or four stars but is in fact a rare **quintuple star**.

In other words when we look at this ancient Arab representation of a solitary horse with a solitary rider we are in reality looking at two horsemen driving a team of five horses across the night sky on the bend of the handle of the Big Dipper. Seven stars all told! Two double stars and one triple. Six of which are twice as big as our own million-mile-wide **Sun** and at least 50% brighter.

Incredible isn't it—what modern astronomy reveals about objects that generations have seen for thousands of years. So get outside some spring night, and gallop across the heavens with Mizar and Alcor, the horse and his rider, two visible stars which are in reality seven, a two-driver chariot pulled by five celestial steeds. ■

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# Café Astrology June 2011

**Aries (March 21-April 20):** You seek security and the art of living. Recent tumultuous events, both inner and outer, filled with desire and frustration, love and wonder, push you here and there and you wonder if comfort will ever be experienced again. It will but not until a few tests are completed. Maintain dedication and pray for right action. Will it.

**Taurus (April 21-May 21):** You seek to relate to others more deeply than usual. Perhaps thoughts of friendships (who are they) and the need for a vacation or time of release and relaxation occur. You feel the necessity for more resources to meet several major responsibilities. Now is a good time to negotiate any financial arrangements. Someone in your family needs shoes.

**Gemini (May 23-June 20):** Any situations you are in a dilemma about will be dealt with in dreams, meditations, contemplative thoughts, and long walks. You've become exceedingly sensitive. Be very observant with how you present duality. Venus is attempting to harmonize everything. You'll need to let this occur so you can unify too. This is a longing you have.

**Cancer (June 21-July 20):** Something within the groups you work and interact with will allow you to focus on thoughts and feelings that have been difficult recently. You will be able to make clearer decisions, come to agreements and begin to make future plans quite soon now. This New Moon is asking you to invoke a spirit of not only illumination but gratitude, too. Fear then dissolves.

**Leo (July 21-Aug. 22):** You seek freedom. You must travel somewhere and find yourself. This will be a new self and one you've been preparing for quite a while now (actually years and years). What will it take to set yourself upon a new path? Careful in relationships. Old wounds emerge so they can dissolve away. Are you asking where your home is?

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You make new plans for the future. Old beliefs are falling away and this clears the way for a new world of thought and ideas that encompasses all the world's beliefs. A deep reorientation occurs. This may feel like a test. It is. Nine of them. The wheel turns.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Great amounts of work can be accomplished. You have strength, ability, desire, aspiration, and courage to approach whatever is needed and apply yourself until completion. In general all will run smoothly though with an accelerated pace. Careful at home and with family. It's not so smooth there. Apply the appropriate salvage if necessary.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You seek comfort and security to a greater degree at this time within relationships. This is good and it will be up to you to achieve half of it. How? By listening more, seeing the life principle in the other, and allowing for change to occur in all levels within your interactions. This is not easy. But it's imperative for future constancy to occur.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20):** Is your mind simply overrun with new creative ideas? Do you at times want to become an entirely new person but you don't know who that is yet? Is communication at times, or perhaps thoughts, both a wound and a healing? This month work will need fortitude. Romance may occur. We hope.

**Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 20):** You want to move forward, your usual state of activity, but the Mercury retro pulls you back and asks for more contemplation rather than action. This is good as it allows you to prepare for the months ahead with a clear, cool head. It's time for a renewal of your self-identity. Who are you to be now?

**Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 18):** You are maturing, growing into realization concerning the reality of your past and your family. Whereas before you could not understand, now you do. Each of us makes commitments prior to each lifetime. All family members are involved in this. This is how we serve one another. It's a paradox. Try to understand so your mind is illumined.

**Pisces (Feb. 18-March 20):** You will focus on how to communicate so that you are heard and understood and also so that others are cared for on all levels. This will be a difficult task. You may also travel. Prepare yourself for ups and downs, the new and the old. Laughter is best. It's actually a meditation. ■ Annie

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### Kralendijk, Playa Lechi Residence 14

With wonderful island and ocean views combined with the refreshing breezes that a penthouse has to offer, Playa Lechi Residence 14 is the ultimate tropical luxury living dream. This penthouse at Playa Lechi Residence offers you private access by elevator into your condo. On the premises are a swimming pool, parking area and storage units. All completely surrounded by a lush tropical garden and within walking distance from town. Lay out: secured elevator into hallway, majestic living room and fully equipped open kitchen with sliding doors to wide covered terrace with sundeck section, master bedroom (access to terrace) with built-in closets and en suite bathroom (with Jacuzzi-tub), 2 guest bedrooms both with built-in closet and en suite bathrooms, laundry. Storage at ground floor. Freehold land. Living area: 2,585 ft<sup>2</sup> (240 m<sup>2</sup>).



Asking price US\$ 1,300,000

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**BONAIRE Heineken JAZZ FESTIVAL 2011 JUNE 2 3 4 5**

**Thursday June 2nd, Jazz & Poetry - 7:00 pm**  
Fort Oranje - Price US\$ 15

- Pali Wiri, Bonaire 07:30 pm
- Nina Strnad & Trio, Slovenia/Curaçao 08:30 pm
- Henk van Twillert & Vento do Norte, Netherlands/Portugal 10:00 pm

**Friday June 3rd, Main Concert - 7:00 pm**  
Plaza Resort Bonaire - Price US\$ 30 (US\$ 45 for both main concerts)

- Local Act, Bonaire 07:30 pm
- Kenia, USA/Brazil 08:30 pm
- Merietza Haakmat & Jazz 2 Soul, Curaçao 10:00 pm

**Saturday June 4th, Main Concert - 7:00 pm**  
Plaza Resort Bonaire - Price US\$ 30 (US\$ 45 for both main concerts)

- Local Act, Bonaire 07:30 pm
- Pablo Gil Jazz Ensemble with guest Dave Samuels, USA 08:30 pm
- Conrad Henwig's Latin Side All-Star Band, USA 10:00 pm

**Sunday June 5th, Lazy Sunday Jazz Afternoon - 4:00 pm**  
Divi Flamingo Resort - Free entrance. BBQ available for US\$ 17.50

- Madeline Bell & Frits Landesbergen, USA/Netherlands 04:00 pm

**After Parties - Little Havana & Sense - 11:00 pm**  
On Thursday (Little Havana), Friday and Saturday (Sense) three fantastic after parties with Island Music All-Stars, festival and local artists. Free entrance.

Tickets will be sold at Addo's Bookstore, Divi Flamingo Beach Resort, Flamingo Bookstore, Hotel Rochaline, It Rains Fishes, Little Havana, Plaza Resort Bonaire, and Sense.

Students with ID can purchase a ticket at half price at the entrance.

The Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival will take place on 2, 3, 4 and 5 of June and as in previous years it will start off with the **Jazz & Poetry Night**. Fort Oranje and the beautiful blue Caribbean Sea make up the wonderful background where talented musicians and poets will perform. Again this year the organization has put together a fantastic music program.

The evening will start with the official opening of the Festival by governor Glenn Thodé. Then the well known Bonairean band, **Pali Wiri**, will perform the first act of the evening. Pali Wiri is a 9-man-strong band, which was founded in 2000. So far the group has released six CDs. During Jazz & Poetry Pali Wiri will play folk music with a touch of jazz and thus they will provide a nice swinging opening of the Festival.

Following this **Nina Strnad**, a talented young but very experienced jazz singer from Slovenia, accompanied by the well known Curaçao pianist **Ronchi Matthews**, base player **Hershel Rosario** and percussionist **Marlon Conradus**, will present an exciting jazz show. Nina Strnad is already well known in the European jazz world; she cut her first live album in 2009. Despite her busy tour of Europe, Nina found time to perform for us on Bonaire. She has visited us any times and loves the island. As well as straight jazz, this special group will also be playing Latin jazz with a touch of poetry. We can guarantee that under the stars and with the beautiful clear voice of Nina in the background you will dream away.

Between performances, the winner of the Bonairean poetry contest, **Vianela Nicholas**, will recite her own beautiful poems. Obviously she will present these poems in her own special way.

To top it all off, **Vento do Norte of Portugal** will provide the next splendid performance. This group of passionate musicians all play the saxophone. From classical to blues, from straight jazz to Latin jazz and even pop music, all music genres will pass under the inspiring leadership of **Henk van Twillert**. Twillert, best known for his Fado and Jazz arrangements, is one of the best saxophone players in the world.

Do not miss this spectacular outdoor concert, under the rays of the moon in a beautiful historic setting. Due to the large demand for tickets in the past, the organization decided to make tickets available in advance. Tickets for the evening are only \$15 and are available at Addo's Books and Toys, It Rains Fishes, Sunbelt Realty, Flamingo Bookstore, Divi Flamingo Hotel, Sense and Little Havana. Tickets for **both** main concerts are only \$45.

Fort Oranje will open its doors at 6:30 and the Jazz & Poetry starts at 7:30 pm. Like previous years, this year will again be a spectacular musical and poetic evening. Check out the poster to the left for details and performers for the remainder of the Festival at the Plaza Resort and the Divi Flamingo Resort as well as the after parties. ■ *Press release/G.D.*