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BONAIRE Sept. 30, - Oct. 14, 2011, Year 18, Issue 19

The REPORTER

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Friday, March 5, 2010, 8.00 pm
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Classical Music Board Bonaire en
 Plaza Resort Bonaire presenteren:
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 programma

Also in this Issue:
 New Pirates of the Caribbean- Cruise Ships Page 8
 Complete Regatta Program Page 18
 Can the Bonaire Museum Keep Its Soul? Page 6

GRAPHIC DESIGN: GISELA VAN STEENBERGEN

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has given the Civil Aviation Department on Curaçao three months to “make concrete changes” to avoid being downgraded from a Category 1 to a Category 2 destination. Such a distinction could have serious consequences for Curaçao as well as Bonaire as major US carriers would most likely cancel some service to the island. Bonaire’s Flamingo Airport is not included in this warning, but many visitors to Bonaire fly US carriers to Curacao and then connect. The action is a result of a recently completed International Aviation Safety Assessments (IASA) audit. The FAA is primarily dissatisfied with the supervision of aviation on Curaçao and that Curacao’s laws do not include certain modern security requirements, and the island does not have sufficient modern equipment or efficient inspection procedures. For the time being, Category 1 remains in place and regional and US-based airlines can continue to serve as normal. It also means that InselAir can continue flying to Miami and Charlotte.

► **Bonaire’s recent change of Government caught the attention of Dutch Member of Parliament,** Wassila Hachchi of the D66 party. She wants an explanation from Dutch Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations, Piet Hein Donner. “I am concerned about the level of transparency and good governance in Bonaire. I have a question about recent developments,” said Hachchi. She wanted to know whether the correct procedures were followed in the process of changing governments.

The Member of Parliament specifically asked about the role of Governor Glenn Thodé after the government fell last week. She further asked Donner for a reaction to the suggestion of Bonaire’s opposition party for member of government, Commissioner Burney Elhage, to reject the position. Elhage has long been a suspect in a questionable corruption case.

► Unfounded rumors are whirling around the island. They include: **a new container port at the Salt Pier, a cruise ship center at the south Town Pier and the relocation of the US Air force FOL base in Curacao to Bonaire.** We can’t be sure about the first two, but we can report that the US vice-consul in Curacao says there are **no plans to close or relocate the current US Forward Operating Location at Hato Airport.**

► **THE HAGUE--St. Maarten and Curaçao have to act fairly and exempt Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba from having to pay**

Turnover Tax (ToT) on goods that pass through or are exported to the Dutch BES islands, Dutch State Secretary of Finance, Frans Weekers, told the Dutch Parliament’s Second Chamber last week. “It is not fair for Curaçao and St. Maarten to say that they want to earn that extra dime. It is not a fair point of departure,” Weekers said. **St. Maarten and Curaçao so far have refused.**

The 5% tax has a cumulative effect for BES consumers. As a result, consumer prices and the cost of construction and food have sharply increased since most goods pass through the island’s larger neighbors. In some areas, prices have increased as much as 20%. Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba had asked The Hague to intervene and negotiate a ToT exemption on goods that they import from Curaçao or St. Maarten.

Weekers warned Curaçao and St. Maarten that if they continued to levy ToT on goods destined for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, this might lead to alternative trade flows. The BES islands are seriously contemplating acquiring their goods from other countries: St. Eustatius and Saba directly from the US or other islands in the region, while Bonaire is eyeing Venezuela or Aruba.

► Following his sentencing to 16 months in prison, **Curacaoan Rogelio Boezem (22) ran off as he was being walked back to the prisoner transport vehicle by prison guards.** He was chased through the streets of Kralendijk, but even though a warning shot was fired, Boezem was able to escape into the *mondi* (outback) near San Francisco Hospital. A manhunt is underway.



Boezem was convicted for taking part in an armed robbery. If you have information on his whereabouts call the police tip line at 717-7251.

► **Commissioner of Economics and Tourism, Burney Elhage, and UPB party leader, Ramonsito Booi, remain suspects** in an investigation into widespread corruption and fraud that began in 2009 which must be completed in early 2012 or dropped. The investigation, which includes others with less famous names, has dragged on beyond the normal time needed for such a case.

According to the opposition, accepting a government office while under suspicion of a crime, sets a bad example.

► **THE HAGUE--Members of the Parliament’s Permanent Committee for Finance lauded Dutch State Secretary of Finance Frans Weekers’ short-term measures to cut BES taxes that include a decrease in the ABB tax of 2%.** (See *The Reporter*, Sept. 16-30, 2011)

However, opposition parties questioned whether the cuts were enough. MP Cynthia Ortega-Martijn presented concrete cases of pensioners who have been suffering financially since the islands became Dutch “public entities” in October last year. “Some pensioners have lost up to US \$200 per month in income,” she said.

► **The Caribbean Netherlands Tax Department has collected an additional US \$10 million from the islands in the first six months of this year on top of the first half of the targeted US \$52 million.** Secretary of Finance Frans Weekers plans to return \$6 million to the islands in the form of tax breaks. But Ortega-Martijn and her colleague, Ed Groot of the PvdA, wanted Weekers to return the other US \$4 million as well. Weekers noted that the real estate tax hasn’t been introduced yet because the basis (*grondslag*) hasn’t yet been determined.

► **The Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations, (BZK), Piet Hein Donner, is paying a working visit to the BES Islands** September 26th-29th. He is responsible for the coordination of the policy of the Central Government on the three islands and other matters. On Wednesday, September 28th, the Minister will travel to Bonaire to talk with the Executive Council about the current state of affairs and financial relations. On September 29th in the morning the Minister will depart for Curacao then on to The Netherlands. This is the third visit of Minister Donner to the Dutch Caribbean this year.



► **PHILIPSBURG--It appears that the envisioned Caribbean guilder for Curaçao and St. Maarten will be shelved through 2012** as the government intends to make arrangements with Curaçao for the continued use of the Netherlands Antilles guilder.

► There’s a new company on Bonaire that responds to the awareness that we need to

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Dutch Caribbean
Phone 786-6125
Phone 786-6518.
Available on-line at:
www.bonairereporter.com

Printed Every Fortnight,
On-line Every day, 24/7

**Next edition printing on
October 11, 2011
Story and Ad deadline:
Friday, October 7, 2011**



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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

live more sustainably in order to preserve our nature. **Bon Eco Solutions brings LED lamps and fixtures, solar energy solutions and water and energy savers to the island.** Bon Eco Solutions collaborates with several local companies. In addition to selling sustainable products BES also wants to stimulate electric transportation on the island. For more information see their ad on page 6 or www.bonecosolutions.com.



► **Great "Hot Stuff" will soon be for sale.** We will tell you more about this new Bonairean produced product in *The Reporter's* next edition.

► **Check out Jody's Fashion** (Lagoen Hill #18). There will be a **50% off sale that runs for only three days, 29 September-1 October.**

► **Help to continue To keep *The Reporter* "Still Free."** Tell the owners of the places you shop to advertise. Have them call Laura at 786-6518 or Marion at 717-8454 / 785-1790 for details. ■ *G./L.D.*

Sea Trauma
Oceans Succumb to Man's Flagrant Abuse

Captain Don

► **Captain Don's latest book *Sea Trauma* is off the press.** It's an incredible eco-oriented novel 421 pages long. Look for it at local bookstores and some dive shops. Get yourself a copy.

New Commissioners Sworn In



Bonaire government photo

New Commissioners on the Bonaire Executive Council ("The Local Government") James Kroon,

Two familiar names returned to the Bonaire Executive Council formed by the new UPB/Santana (formerly PHU) coalition. **James Kroon** and **Burney Elhage** were named by the UPB (green) party and **Silvana Serfilia** is the Santana (Party formerly PHU) selection. According to a government press release all commissioners are fully qualified for the positions-commissioner. Kroon and Elhage have had careers in local and central government. Serfilia was employed with the Department of Social Affairs. In the past, she had worked with Kroon while he was a commissioner as his portfolio secretary. ■ *G.D.*

Thodé Resigns



Last week Bonaire Governor Glenn Thodé (45) asked Queen Beatrix to relieve him of his duties at the end of the year. The dramatic action made a strong statement condemning the political bickering that has virtually paralysed the Bonaire island government for six months.

The most recent development has been in the forming of a new executive council (the island's executive branch) following the formation of a new coalition. The Council named an individual who has been the focus of serious financial crimes for the last two years to head the Economics and Tourism departments. The Governor told *The Reporter* he could no longer be a part of a government that values division over unity. He said he hoped that this act would make people on the island realize that they have to alter course and get people into leadership positions who are for the people, not just for themselves and their associates.

Politics on Bonaire is like a gunfight on a ship at sea. The opponents are shooting at each other so much that they don't realize that the bullets are making holes in the ship and it is sinking. And themselves and the passengers, the Bonairean people, are about to go under.

A governor leaving office is not unprecedented. In the 60s the first Antillean Governor, Raymundo Saleh, quit to start a political party.

No gubernatorial replacement has been named. Thodé will become the Rector of the University of Aruba. He was the head of the Law School there before being selected to become Bonaire's Governor. ■ *G.D.*

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On the Island Since... October 1951 Sandra Jacques Salomons

"I was born on January 1919 in Paramaribo, Surinam. I come from a poor family. My parents had five children and my father was a boat builder – most of the time without work. When I finished school at 17, I had to get work and I was employed by a trade company called Adolf F.C. Curiel. This man had possessions in balata rubber and gold. I got attracted to this mining business and that's why today, amongst other things, I know how to wash gold and how to find the gold with the help of mercury.

After my job with Curiel, I went to join the US Army, working for the US post engineers in Paramaribo and at the airport at Zanderij Field. I studied US bookkeeping and accounting. At Zanderij Field I also worked for the S-2 security office, where they taught me many things that had to do with the Secret Service. I used to go with them to meetings of the assembly and I would

explain to them what they were talking about. I was handling restricted letters, confidential and top secrets. And I was oh so impressed when I saw for the first time in my life a B51 bomber from a distance of about 150 meters. It landed in Zanderij and its tail was as big as a two-story building! My goodness! That was a monster! My goodness! And I saw it!

In 1948 I was offered a job with OGEM (Overseas Gas and Electricity Company) on Curacao. I already had a wife and two kids, but I couldn't take them immediately as it was very hard to find a house with a bathroom and a WC so it took a while before they joined me. I worked for three years on Curacao, then my employer sent me to Bonaire in October 1951 and the family came when I'd found a suitable house.

At the time there was a more-than-25-year old Deutz and Stork generator. The old wiring of Mr.

Gerharts was replaced by better wiring and it was hooked on to OGEM wiring. When OGEM started providing electric current, the generators that some businesses had were removed. Of course, the main objective was to keep the company running without losses and so we had to get the kerosene refrigerators and stoves out of the houses to make the business profitable.

I advised OGEM to build a showroom here with all electrical household equipment so that the people got acquainted with what electricity was and how easy it was. My slogan was 'Cook on



Mr. Sandra Salomons at home with the portraits of his wife and children

gas... no soot, no ash!"

Rincon was the first location where a high tension wire was run. There were two ways to bring it to Rincon and they went through the mountains but they would have preferred to do it in the vicinity of the existing road, to make connections for water pits for the donkeys and especially the goats, as in those days thousands of animals were dying from drought every year.

Well, when my son was 11 years old I had to send him to Curacao, as there was no follow-up education on the island. And when my daughter was 11, I sent her to Surinam to live with my first wife's family. For the last 30 years my daughter has been living in Australia with her family. She comes to visit me every two years. She has her room here in my house, but it's a great distance and a very expensive trip. My son

(Continued on page 5)

"..the main objective was to keep the company running without losses and so we had to get the kerosene refrigerators and stoves out of the houses to make the business profitable."

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On the Island Since (continued from page 4)

passed away; he was 56 when he had a fatal heart attack. And... today is the 12th of September and it's the anniversary of my wedding day."

Mr. Salomons gets up and he shows me the photo of his wife. "We got married in 1945. She passed away in August 2006. For many years of our marriage I had to take care of my wife. She had suffered a stroke, so I did the cooking, the cleaning and the laundry. Only much later did we get home care. You see, you get married for life. You promise that you'll stay with your wife in good times and bad times. Let me tell you something about women... You may know a woman, yet you don't know her... You will never be able to fathom her... A man has to love a woman, give her love. Every day when you wake up you have to tell her, 'I still love you.' Nowadays, it seems like when a man meets a woman it's 'hello' and 'hello' and 'let's go to bed.' But a woman is not a machine and a man isn't either. Love needs to be evoked; it can take long, but one day it's there."

He laughs. "Of course there are women and men who don't go for that, but that's another story. To me a woman is God's most beautiful creation." Mr. Sandra Salomon is a character, a

man with an extraordinary sharp mind, a great sense of humor and a lust for life. He's an admirable person...

"Now," he says, "Let me finish. When I came here the water supply was in the hands of the government. Then they built the power plant in Hato and started the desalination, and water and electricity became combined. Later on it became WEB. In 1979 I retired."

I stayed here because I was a social minded man, a social democrat. I did so many things for the Bonairean community that I got a decoration from the Queen. I was vice president of the Protestant Church and I became the treasurer and later the president and secretary of the Sentro di Bario and then I became the president and temporary secretary of SGB high school and in my time the higher education sector of the school was built.

The Sentro di Bario in Rincon was another big thing! We got one hundred thousand guilders from Holland to buy equipment! I also started with the music school and I got all the instruments from Holland. I established the Boy Scouts in connection with Holland. I was the treasurer of the chess and checker's club and the soccer association and I became a blood donor."

He laughs:

"Once a lady came up to me and she wanted to give me a hundred guilders as I had given blood to her sister. I told the lady 'I didn't buy the blood I gave to your sister... so, I cannot sell it either!' Ha!

When I retired I would leave the house and 8am and at 4pm I would come home for lunch! Then I stopped all my social activities because some people had something against me as I was not a native. I got a little angry. I'd only done it because nobody else did it!

I've lived on Bonaire longer than I've lived in Surinam. I brought the Karnaval here, together with Mr. Heitkonig, the father of Dr. Chirino, the dentist, and somebody else, whose name I can't remember. I still love to dance. Any music will do! And I like to laugh and be happy! I am 92 1/2. Nowadays I don't drive anymore, and I am depending on other people. Can you imagine



Sandra Salomons enjoying his lunch at the Chinese restaurant in Hato

what that means? Most of the time I don't go anywhere. I live my life all alone. They bring me my lunch from the hospital, except for weekends, and then Humphrey Abdul, my friend, takes care of me.

There's also Diane Gevers, she is such a good lady. I don't know how to praise her enough. I love her, no kidding! And I have two other good lady friends, so I can move with them too. The laundry and the cleaning of the house is

done by the home care service of the government, but my personal clothing I send to the laundry. So, everything is taken care of... And I am content, but you know what? Sad things come by themselves, but you have to make your own happiness - nobody will do it for you!

■ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



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Culture department's Jackie Bernabela in the Bonaire museum.

Just had the pleasure of visiting the Museum Bonaire again. I was struck by the simplicity and beauty of it. It represents the soul of our small island in the Caribbean. Uniquely Bonaire. It does not have friendless shiny surfaces that so many museums in Europe and the US have – it has a heart and spirit of its own. It is a cozy way to spend an afternoon. One can feel and see the history of the people. It is not mixed in with music pounding from a music school but instead it is housed in a beautiful old *Cas di Hadrey*, which in itself is unique to the architectural culture of Bonaire. An old boat mall from when Bonaire was a great ship building society and some of the history of boatbuilding graces one case. Ancient looking masks from old time masquerade and old music instruments fill one wall. There is a good section on Archeology – well documented with pictures and artifacts and even a pre-Columbian skeleton found on Bonaire. Old pieces of furniture and even some church statues show how Bonaire lived and worshiped at the turn of the last century. Ancient looking farm implements show an old way of life. There are shells from our sea, lovingly picked and given by a Dutch couple, representing our island under the sea, stones from the caves and land, some of them very unique with a history of their own and artwork from islanders and of course the beautiful pictures of Winfred Dania depicting the Mythology of Bonaire - and much more.

Many of the things in the museum were given to it by those living on the island and many are just on loan. It is a beautiful experience if one takes the time to really see it - not just to go in and out without staying to feel the spirit of it – to look through what on the surface appears to be clutter but is not at all.

The old museum building is going to be restored. Everything in the museum will be packed up and moved to somewhere else. There are those who would like one cultural center to house everything on Bonaire. Will this take away its

soul – the very uniqueness that makes one want to go to the museum? Will the music school be placed next to the art school next to the museum? Will it cost less in money to run but even more in lost cultural experiences? Will it be run by real Bonaireans who understand the soul of their island or by people from someplace else who THINK they understand the soul of this island? Will it all go the way of the library and the theatre? Just ask an old Bonairean how that worked out. That story is a long and sad tale for sure. Consolidation often makes everyone and everything insignificant.

Museum Bonaire is not a big city gallery but a small island museum. Could there be ways to improve the museum? Of course. Should it be expanded? Of course. Could it represent even more of Bonaire's culture than it already does? Probably. But can it be placed in some new government type building and still retain its spirit, its soul? Probably not. ■ Photos and story by Maggie Booi

The Bonaire Museum is located on Kaya J. C. van der Ree #7. Tel. 717-5330 X-344.



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Goal: A 100% Handicapped Accessible Bonaire

More and more folks with mild to serious handicaps are travelling these days. Bonaire is no exception in welcoming them and has been adapting, however slowly, to accommodate wheelchairs,



scooters, walkers and those of us who need to maneuver in unobstructed space. When I first set foot on Bonaire 25 years ago I stayed at what was then Hotel Bonaire, the now defunct Sunset Beach location. Much to my surprise there were ramps and wide doors and even the Casino could be entered by wheelchair. Also the Flamingo Beach Hotel catered (and still does) to the disabled/handicapped visitors. Organizations such as Moray Wheels and the Handicapped Diver's Association made regular trips over the years.

Now more than a quarter of a century later, we still have a long way to go to be able to provide a safe, accessible unimpeded environment for the elderly and disabled resident or visitor. I have been noticing more and more handicapped parking signs lately and it has made it easier for those of us who need them. As yet we do not have the permit program in place, but it does seem to be working on an honor system.

In October of 2009 a group, MiVaBo, was formed to address the community's need for better access. They have assumed the responsibility of speaking for all the physical/mentally challenged who visit and live here.

As an official foundation they are registered with the government and have a mission and a set of goals. The first is to educate the disabled and make them aware of their rights and also their responsibilities as well. This also applies to their

partners and families too.

The local entrepreneurs need also to be made aware of the constraints and obstacles presented at their places of business. Even small steps or narrow aisles, lack of ramps, doors that only open one way all serve to tell many potential clients that they are not welcome.

Another goal set by MiVaBo is to bring to both the public and private sector the availability of tools and aids for the disabled public. Many restaurants, guest houses, hotels and resorts need to up-grade or remodel to make themselves attractive to this group of people. Until government and other agencies make it mandatory, the foundation needs to be active in identifying hard-to-access places.

On the practical side we are a tourist destination that is poised to become a niche market for the disabled vacationer. The fact that "US travelers with disabilities spend an average of \$13.6 billion annually on travel" is increasingly well-known. Not frequently acted upon effectively by the industry, but well-known.

The establishments that do meet the standards for accessibility can be identified by a MiVaBo sticker in their window. It is the hope of the organization that there will be legislation and enforcement to ensure that Bonaire will be one of the first islands in the Caribbean rim with bragging rights when it comes to being the most disabled friendly destination.

The Foundation's future depends on public awareness. Its funding is primarily from private and corporate donations. Look for their sticker where you shop or eat. It never hurts to be vocal, especially if you feel you are being kept out by a barrier thoughtlessly placed or that can become a danger. Be sure to observe the handicapped parking signs. I know I sure do appreciate it and so will many others folks.

If you need to contact MiVaBo email Oswald Melchert omelcherts@hotmail.com ■

Michael Gaynor



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Body Talk

ALUMINUM - A HEALTH RISK, OR NOT?

Aluminum is one of the most abundant metallic elements on earth and can be found in the ground, in water and in the air, not in its metallic form but rather as aluminum compounds.

The properties of aluminum and aluminum compounds have led to their use in a wide variety of everyday household products such as food additives, anti-acids, antiperspirants, aluminum foil, cooking utensils, canned food, skin care products, cosmetics, water purification, in fact, the list is endless!

It is generally accepted that we take in up to 10 milligrams of aluminum per day, mostly from food. Aluminum pots and pans provide only about one or two milligrams of the total, although during cooking, aluminum dissolves most easily from worn or pitted pots. The longer food is cooked or stored in aluminum the greater the amount that gets in the food. Leafy vegetables and acidic foods, such as tomatoes and citrus products, absorb the most aluminum.

However, aluminum is very poorly absorbed in the gastrointestinal tract, roughly 0.1% of the dietary intake. Of greater concern is aluminum absorption through the skin, in the form of antiperspirants and skin care products. Do you know that the FDA warns "that people with renal dysfunction may not be aware that the daily use of antiperspirant drug products containing aluminum may put them at a higher risk because of exposure to aluminum in the product."? The agency warns people with renal dysfunction TO CONSULT A DOCTOR BEFORE USING ANTIPERSPIRANTS CONTAINING ALUMINUM. All standard antiperspirants contain aluminum! What a joke! Have you ever seen such a warning on an antiperspirant? I certainly have not!

Aluminum was first recognized as a human neurotoxin in 1886, before being

used as an antiperspirant. For those that are not sure, a neurotoxin is a substance that causes damage to nerves and nerve tissue.

One of the suggested possible long term effects over exposure to aluminum is Alzheimer's, often considered to be a disease 'for old people', yet more and more people in their 30's and 40's suffer from the short term symptoms of aluminum toxicity which include memory loss, mental confusion, colic, heartburn, flatulence, headaches and learning difficulties.

Because antiperspirants are drugs, they are regulated by the FDA, but FDA regulation does not mean a drug is safe! Like prescription drugs, the FDA oversees over-the-counter drugs (OTC drugs) to ensure they are properly labeled and that their benefits outweigh their risk. Often the FDA does not consider the evidence of danger to consumers' health enough to take action. In fact, they have a well proven track record of 'safe products or medications' that turned out to be harmful and at times quite deadly!

How many more studies will have to be conducted to establish the long-term effects of aluminum? By how much would you like to see the cancer rates skyrocket before you are convinced? There are many ways to eliminate aluminum from our lifestyle like using wooden utensils, glass or stainless steel cooking pots, no tinned foods and safe personal hygiene products. How at risk are you and your loved ones?

Next issue: IS THERE A LINK BETWEEN ALUMINUM AND BREAST CANCER? Decide for yourself! ■

Stephanie Bennett



PARKING DOWNTOWN

Dear Editor:

Something must be done about the parking situation in and around Kralendijk. Parking is more important for business than what some people seem to think.

The main parking lot is pretty, artistically designed but very inefficient. Is the souvenir shop ever open? Is it even worth having there? Take it down.

All the little sitting areas are cute but little used. Take most of them out. The islands and crossovers are all taking up parking space. With minimal thought and redesign at least 30 more spaces could be made for cars, possibly even more.

Bruce Bowker

BIO LINK

Nutrition in Perspective

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Enjoy Our Reef Fishes

Let's Not Eat Them

A message from Caribbean reef pioneer CAPTAIN DON STEWART

Captain Don

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and ⊙ groupers

Artwork by Dominique Serafini

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WHO NEEDS WHO?

An In-Depth
Guest Editorial

CRUISE COMPANIES VS. PORTS OF CALL

The future looks bright for the cruise ship industry, practically not affected by the global financial crisis. According to Micky Arison, Carnival's Chairman and CEO (a multi-billionaire like his father, Carnival's founder), the projected increase in cash from operations of this largest cruise lines group is expected to exceed \$4 billion in 2011, an increase of 6.6% compared with 2010 when already impressive gains were shown. In 2010, 12 new ships with a capacity of up to 5,400 passengers joined the Cruise Line International Association (CLIA), having as members the most major cruise operators. In 2011 and 2012, CLIA expects an enormous impact of the 22 new ships with up to 144 GT and with estimated price of up to \$1 billion (the *Utopia*, coming in 2013, will cost \$1.1 billion!).

The cruise ship industry is highly concentrated and dominated by three major groups –

Carnival (including Carnival Cruise Lines, P&O Princess Lines, Holland America Line, Cunard, AIDA and 6 other companies), **Royal Caribbean** (including Royal Caribbean Cruises and Celebrity) and **Star Cruises** (including Star Cruises Line, Norwegian Cruises Line and 2 other companies). The companies operating in the Caribbean, the world's largest cruise market, are represented by the FCCA – Florida Caribbean Cruise Association.

In their operations in the whole world the cruise companies depend 100% on the cooperation of the ports of call. In a pure theoretical case, if these ports suddenly were no longer interested in cruise ship arrivals and the use of the port facilities were denied to them, the whole multi-billion cruise ship industry would collapse immediately. The several currently used private islands and anchorages in the Caribbean, four of them in the Bahamas, as an alternative to the ports of call, could not prevent the gigantic disaster. Although the arrival of cruise ships is very important for some ports, they could certainly survive without these ships, as they did before the cruise tourism boom. **It is thus more than evident that the cruise companies need the ports of call urgently and would die without their cooperation and not the other way round.**

Although most islands and territories, including Bonaire, consider it a real honor to be selected as a port of call, thinking that they're creating a rather glamorous side to their community, there have been also ports

not interested in the arrival of cruise ships and with their populations even hating the cruise ship visitors. This has been particularly true in the case of ports in Alaska.

The town of Tenakee Springs is an example. It proclaimed in 1998 that cruise ship tourism was incompatible with the community's lifestyle, facilities, and services, and vowed to take whatever steps necessary to prevent this type of tourism in the town. When the first cruise ship came — a small ship with only 120 passengers — the city tried to persuade the captain to cancel the visit. After that effort failed, cruise passengers were handed leaflets as they disembarked and were told they were not welcome as part of an organized tour, but they would be welcome to return on their own. Most businesses closed their doors during the stay of the ship in the port

A love-hate relation developed in practically all Alaskan ports. On some days there are 10 times more cruise passengers than local residents, who realize that cruise ships are a source of income but resent losing their quiet town and lifestyle. In the summer high season the local people are not able to walk down the street or go out for a quiet meal. The noise of helicopters, bringing the passengers to glaciers, is another nuisance. Even the extremely high head tax, \$50, did not stop the continuing increase of cruise tourism to Alaska.

But also in other US ports there is a growing resentment against the cruise lines. In June 2011, preservation groups in Charleston, South Carolina, filed a lawsuit against Carnival Cruise Lines, claiming that company's ships pollute Charleston and threaten its historic value. Preservation groups and neighborhood groups want to stop the \$25 million redevelopment of the port authority's main pier into a cruise terminal for Carnival, which, in spite of the protests of inhabitants, made Charleston a home port in 2010.

Also outside the US the people of some countries feel indignation at the cruise lines. Bermuda, aiming to create a balance between air and cruise visitors, has developed strict control over the cruise ship industry by setting limits and charging a high head tax per passenger. In order to ensure and enrich a high quality experience for its visitors Bermuda limits the number of regular callers to six vessels per week, 6,500 visitors maximum per day and an annual maximum of



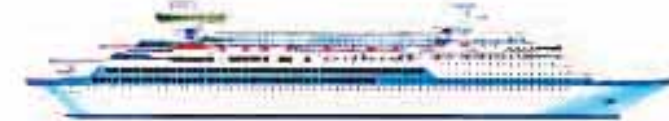
Voyager of the Seas



Costa Atlantica



Fantasy



Song of Norway

Cruise ships keep getting bigger

200,000 visitors. The cruise companies are urging Bermuda to permit more ship arrivals although the country has the highest cruise ship passenger tax in the region and the Caribbean-US\$60 plus \$20 for overnight in high season (May – August) and \$15 p/p during the off season – and the local government is currently considering increasing the head tax to \$90 (!) per passenger.

In the British Virgin Islands people began to protest the increase in cruise ship visitors in the last years as it was perceived that it had a negative impact on the BVI tourism product and earnings. Similarly, there were fierce protests in English Harbour in Antigua and Barbuda which stopped the government proposal to increase the number of cruise ship arrivals at the cost of yachting which provides a much greater contribution to GDP and employment than cruise ship tourism.

In his extended study "*Cruise Ship Squeeze*" of October 2008, Ross A. Klein, professor at St. John's University, Newfoundland, specialist in the cruise ship industry, calls the cruise ships the "New Pirates of the Seven Seas." **While the industry rakes in billions of dollars a year, paying virtually no income tax, the ports that ships visit are left with relatively few crumbs.** It exploits workers onboard ships, uses graft from its deep chests to shape political decisions and influence media, and bullies ad-



"Cruise ships are the New Pirates of the Seven Seas."

-Ross A. Klein, professor at the St. John's University, Newfoundland, specialist in cruise ship industry

ministrations into accepting, for example, that Carnival's 50%-plus market dominance is not anti-competitive, or that its abysmal environmental and health practices are responsible. Through confidential documents and meetings with port officials, corporate executives, politicians, and industry insiders, cruise specialist Klein includes information never previously reported on millions in campaign contributions to candidates of the both main political parties and millions spent on lobbyists in the last years because, as known, lobbying works better if combined with big money.

All larger cruise ships have stores and boutiques that are owned and run by Miami

Cruiseline, a subsidiary of Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy, which possesses 60 well-known luxurious brand names sold in onboard stores often guaranteeing that onshore merchants will not undersell them. It's an easy guarantee to make when the wholesaler and manufacturer of many of the products own the onboard retailer. Miami Cruiseline is also responsible on many cruise ships for port lecturers, marketing shore excursions, and the shopping program (i.e., providing a list of preferred stores for shopping).

Shore excursions are one of the main sources of income for cruise companies. For example, a shore excursion costing a Royal Caribbean passenger \$60 may yield the in-port provider a maximum \$20. Passengers expecting a product worth \$60 then blame the port, not the cruise ship, if dissatisfied. Carnival, for instance, buys up tour slots from operators in St. Lucia, then resells them to passengers at markup. An independent St. Lucia taxi driver typically charges \$20 a head for a daylong island tour. Carnival's cheapest full-day tour is \$64. Merchants, tour providers, taxis, and local guides are all at the mercy of multinational companies for their livelihood. Stores pay considerable sums to be included in the ship's shopping program. The effect: the cruise line and the company marketing the shore excursion and the onshore stores

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

make enormous profits.

The irony is that the cruise lines, because they are foreign-registered, pay virtually no federal taxes on the \$6 billion in cruise fares from mostly US tax-paying citizens. Even a corporation like Carnival, earning a billion dollars every year, pays no corporate income tax because it is registered in Panama. Royal Caribbean, which also owns Celebrity Cruises, is registered in Liberia where there are no taxes. P&O Princess (owned by Carnival), apparently the highest taxed of the major cruise companies, is registered in the UK and pays taxes amounting to approximately 5% of its worldwide net income.

If cruise ship visitors are exchanged for hotel or yachting tourists, the tourism destination suffers a major loss in tourism receipts and in direct and indirect employment. In defense, cruise ship companies divulge the cock-and-bull story that a cruise offers great opportunities to explore a tourism destination and that many cruise ship tourists will return for a land-based holiday. However, the experience of the Bahamas shows that only a negligibly small percentage of cruise ship visitors does indeed return for a land-based holiday. The port of Cozumel in Mexico has had a still worse experience - only 2 (two!) cruise ship passengers returned for holiday there in the last year in spite of thousands of brochures about Cozumel's beauty, distributed among the cruise visitors! The sad fact is that many thousands of cruise ship visitors who otherwise would have visited the Caribbean for a holiday will no longer visit the region because they have been there on a cruise ship.

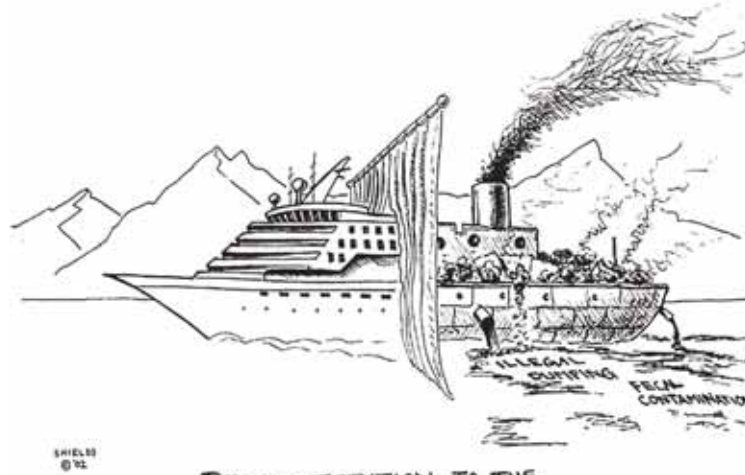
As far as Bonaire is concerned, a cruise ship passenger, after seeing Lac Bay and the Washington National Park in one day, will never come back unless he is a passionate diver. This is also the case of Aruba and many other small islands. Only beach lovers will return to Aruba because this arid island without lush vegetation and beautiful nature, like on other Caribbean islands, now has practically nothing interesting except beaches to show to a foreign visitor since the main attraction - the natural bridge - collapsed several years ago. The increased market share of the cruise ship tourism stems partly from clients who would not have visited the Caribbean otherwise but also of clients who would have certainly taken a land-based holiday there at some point in time. It is the latter category that is a cause of concern because the **decision to take a cruise ship holiday automatically implies a loss of land tourism earnings and employment**.

It's a plausible idea, but while

the number of cruise-ship visitors to Grenada and St. Lucia has doubled in the past two years, there are now fewer hotel rooms on these islands. That's no coincidence because **while a land-based tourism industry is being taxed to death (hotel occupancy tax, income tax, social security), it cannot compete with a sea-based tourism that is virtually tax-free.**

Revenue isn't the only important factor. Given the waste that is produced on a cruise ship — 100 gallons of wastewater per day per person, including 10 gallons of sewage, as well as 3.5

bean destinations. The lowest head tax in the US have some east coast ports — for instance \$9 in Portland, Maine, and Rockland, Maine, having the lowest head tax in the whole US - \$6. However, Royal Caribbean is threatening to stop its visits to this tiny town in case this recently increased tax isn't lowered. The increase was imposed to compensate for the high costs for adapting the town's infrastructure to the cruise ship visits. — Alaska, having till 2010 the highest head tax - \$50 - has it reduced to "only" \$34.50 under pressure of the Carnival Corporation threat-



"A cruise ship produces 100 gallons of wastewater, including 10 gallons of sewage, as well as 3.5 kilograms of solid waste per person per day."

kilograms of solid waste per person per day — ships have an interest in remaining in areas where waste can be legally discharged. International regulations limit the discharge of sewage within four or 12 miles of the coast. There are no regulations pertaining to gray water — wastewater from showers and sinks, the galley, the spa, and beauty parlor — almost anything that goes down a drain other than a toilet.

In this connection I wonder how is it possible that **the obsolete Scientology ship, Free-winds, without any on-board sewage treatment plant, is still permitted to dump its sewage on our pristine island of Bonaire.** It is just a shame and I cannot understand why the Bonaire's government does not deny the access of this ship to our port.

The passenger head tax plays an important role in the relation between the cruise companies and the ports of call. While the ports are trying to increase it as much as possible, the cruise companies are not prepared to pay more and retaliate against the destinations, pulling ships out or moving to other ports. The problem is that while the cruise companies have formed a united front, acting through their already mentioned associations CLIA and FCCA, there is not such an union formed by the governments, territories or individual ports of call.

US ports of call collect a much higher head tax than the Carib-

eaning to cut its visits by 10%. However, the very popular ports of Juneau and Ketchikan add municipal taxes so that the head tax is actually \$64 per passenger, thus the highest in the world.

The cruise head tax in destinations outside the US varies currently from the mentioned **\$60 in Bermuda to as low as \$2 in Bonaire (increased from \$1)** and some other ports, among them also Jamaica. Unfortunately, the cruise lines, refusing to pay Jamaica any tax, owe that impoverished island now more than \$12 million.

The main problem is **that while the cruise ship lobby is very strong, the countries in the region have demonstrated up until now an inability to take a unified stand in defending the necessity to increase the current head tax and to bring it to the same level in the whole region.** Three actions in this direction, taken in 1992, 1995 and 2003, failed completely. In 1992, the organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), formed by Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, agreed to adopt a standard head tax of \$10. In 1995, the wider regional organization, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) including also Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Suriname and associated members Trinidad & Tobago, An-



In the "cruise ship game" the ships almost always beat the ports

guilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Turks & Caicos, came with the same proposal. This was a major step forward, since earlier discussions about increasing the head tax had taken place only bilaterally, giving the cruise companies an in-built advantage. They could play one country off against another by threatening to skip one destination for another with a lower tax. The decision of CARICOM did not please the cruise lines and retaliation was not long in coming. Royal Caribbean Cruises announced that it would drop St. Lucia from its itinerary. Unfortunately, there was no solidarity with St. Lucia and Dominica offered to welcome the St. Lucia-visiting *Nordic Princess*. There was a general distrust of what was considered to be imperious behavior by the cruise lines. However, a unified front was not achieved. **The failure demonstrated just how powerful the cruise companies are.**

The last unified action was organized in 2003 by the Caribbean Tourist Organization (CTO), headquartered in Barbados. It represents 32 countries and territories, among them also Bonaire and other Dutch Caribbean islands with exception of Saba. CTO proposed to impose a \$20 head tax for all cruise ships making calls at the ports of member states. Unfortunately, this action also failed after St. Maarten rejected the proposal. The reason was that St. Maarten had signed an agreement with the Carnival Corporation not to increase its head tax above the existing \$5 after the cruise company had provided \$34.5 million to support the construction of a new two-berth on St. Maarten (RBTT financed the remaining \$86.5 million of the \$121 million project). Besides St. Maarten, Antigua and Dominica also rejected the proposal. The cruise lines, represented by the FCCA, took an action immediately after CTO announced the proposal. Already before voting, FCCA warned the CTO members that it would pull ships out from the countries accepting the proposal and move them to destinations refusing it. With this action the FCCA, playing countries against one another, confirmed its known "divide and conquer-type"

strategy.

After 2003, each destination had only one possibility — to try to reach the increase of the head tax in bilateral negotiations. Some of the countries have been successful. St. Lucia now has a head tax of \$6.50, St. Vincent and Grenadines \$10, Bahamas \$20 (increased in 2010 from \$15), Barbados \$6, Trinidad and Tobago \$5 and Belize \$7. Belize, originally requesting the payment of a higher head tax, agreed on \$7 after the Carnival Corporation promised in 2005 to construct a \$50 million cruise port in Belize City. However, due to a government corruption scandal the construction has not started yet. Besides Belize, other Central American countries also have been successful, for instance Honduras which increased its head tax to \$9.50.

Use must be made of the fact that Bonaire now is a part of The Netherlands. The negotiations with the mighty cruise companies must thus be officially led by The Netherlands, not by the government of Bonaire, a small municipality of that "first world" country. The Netherlands itself has two very important cruise ports of call — Rotterdam (the largest European port) and Amsterdam.

As far as Bonaire is concerned, we must try to reach an increase of the head tax to a minimum of \$5, emphasizing during the negotiations that it still will be less than the \$7 collected by Belize, another destination in the region with a similar beautiful coral reef. *(Even the STINAPA \$10 annual "user fee," which all other visitors must pay, is waived for cruise ship visitors. —ed.)*

Bonaire might want to follow the tactic of St. Maarten and try to convince FCCA to share in the costs of the construction of new port facilities and to fix the head tax at \$5. I hope that our island will prove itself equal to the occasion. ■ *Jiri Lausman*



Miss Bonaire Meets the Loras



Marian Walthie photo

Miss Bonaire and her lora friends

Wearing a stunning Lora dress, Miss Bonaire, Ana Macie, made an incredible entrance at the Miss Supranational 2011 contest in Poland. She returned to Bonaire and along with Loresca Anthony (2nd Runner Up, 2010-2011) and the members of the Miss Bonaire organisation, visited the rescued Loras and Prikichis at the Echo Foundation rescue aviary.

Each morning and afternoon the Echo team provide the Loras and Prikichis with several bowls full of seed, freshly chopped fruit and wild foods. Although the Loras now look like adult birds they are still babies and need a small amount of liquid food each day. Ana did not hesitate to have a go at feeding the enthusiastic Lora chicks.

Very soon the Lora chicks will be independent and this stage of their development will have passed. The Echo team have already successfully released other



Miss Bonaire pageant photo

Miss Bonaire, Ana Macie, in the Lora dress

illegally captured loras. In time these young birds will also have their chance to experience freedom and to fly over the tree tops. ■ Press release

Delightful Deli Delicious



Great service at Deli Delicious- Effie at right

Bonaire has a little culinary gem, Deli Delicious, tucked under a façade in the Les Galeries Shopping Mall in Kralendijk. Effie van Kessel has taken her love for cooking and created a breakfast and lunch spot chock full of delicious treats.

My first experience sampling her cuisine was at a dinner party where I had a lovely fish soup and homemade sushi. I was amazed my hostess had made sushi for the dinner party but later learned she had purchased both menu items at Deli Delicious. The soup was rich with a lovely broth and chopped fish, thick and tasty. The tuna and salmon sushi were fresh and delightful. I had to have more.

I stumbled in to Deli Delicious one morning after waiting in line for an hour in a government office. I was tired and needed something cold and delicious. The air cooled dining room is painted with bright colors, decorated with fun art and has a lovely casual vibe perfect for low key din-

ing. I ordered a homemade fruit smoothie concocted with fresh bananas, passion fruit and kiwi. It was refreshing.

Effie features homemade treats such as Dutch style apple cake full of lovely walnuts and crisp spiced apples with a rich buttery crust. Her house made pastries include crisp and buttery croissants, deli-like bagels and delicious salads. Of course I ordered sushi, something hard to come by in Bonaire. Effie's boyfriend catches the tuna and delivers it fresh for Effie's demanding customers. Each morning folks line up to pick up their pre orders.

Recently a friend from the US visited Bonaire and wanted a cup of coffee and croissant. I introduced him to Deli Delicious. He went back twice during his vacation professing Effie's coffee was amazing. Deli Delicious is open 9-3 weekdays. Stop in for a treat and unwind in one of Bonaire's cutest café spots. ■ Ann Phelan Reporter Editor's Rating: Top- 3★out of 3



Ann Phelan photos

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The Sailors Who Never Left

JEANETTE AND ROB TER BORG

In 1985, four years into their world voyage, Jeanette and Rob ter Borg made landfall on Bonaire where they still remain today.

“Bonaire was so nice, so simple,” explains Jeanette. “There were no buildings along the coast. Hardly any cars or telephones, and Culimara was here but it was very small.”

“Many people were barefoot, but not because they couldn’t afford shoes,” adds Rob. “It was just their choice. There was no need for shoes. So I went barefoot when I went into town too.”

These were the first impressions of the young Dutch sailors when they arrived on Bonaire over a quarter of a century ago. The ter Borg’s had left Haarlem, The Netherlands in 1982 after they had completed construction of *Iltsi*, a 38-foot steel sloop. The couple had bought the hull and Rob built the rest of the boat himself. He came from a family of sailors, generations of boat builders, so completing *Iltsi* (which means ‘wind’ in the American Indian language of Apache) was in his DNA. Jeanette had never sailed until she met Rob in her early 20s. She quit her secretary job 10 years later. Their goal was to complete a world voyage in four to five years. By the time they sailed into Spain, their plans had drastically changed.

“I injured my back and had to have surgery and then a long recovery,” tells Jeanette. “We were in Spain for two years. Then the doctor told me I was not allowed to sail. I said, ‘Oh, no?’ and off we went.”

This was in the time before the advent of personal computers. The couple’s main contact with home was *poste restante*, or



The Seawitch under sail off Bonaire

The Iltsi-



Jeanette and Rob ter Borg

general delivery, a service where the post office holds mail until the recipient calls for it. “Every time we came to a port, we would rush to the post office,” laughs Jeanette. “Now and then we heard, ‘No, we sent your mail back two days ago because it was here too long.’ It was so different then. You can not imagine.”

Also, there was no GPS (Global Positioning System) in 1982. Rob, however, was a

master at celestial navigation and the sextant was *Iltsi*’s guide. That was fortunate, for as Jeanette reveals, “Robert has his own way of navigation.” “There are two points, A and B,” explains Rob with a smile. “But you don’t know B. So what you do is you start sailing and then you end up at B, wherever it is. Then you can draw this line back to A. It’s always good.”

It was good enough that when *Iltsi*’s crew finally

left Spain, they had a smooth trans-Atlantic crossing from the Canaries to the Caribbean. They then sailed the islands throughout the chain. It was a simpler time of smaller yachts and what Jeanette refers to as ‘sea gypsies,’ cruisers on limited budgets who sailed small boats as compared to today’s yachts that often exceed 40-feet.

“I think cruising now is not as nice anymore. When we were sailing around, in no time you would be invited to a beach party. Sailors were always gathering together. Now, everybody sits down below behind their computers. They are just not meeting each other like we used to.”

Continued on page 14

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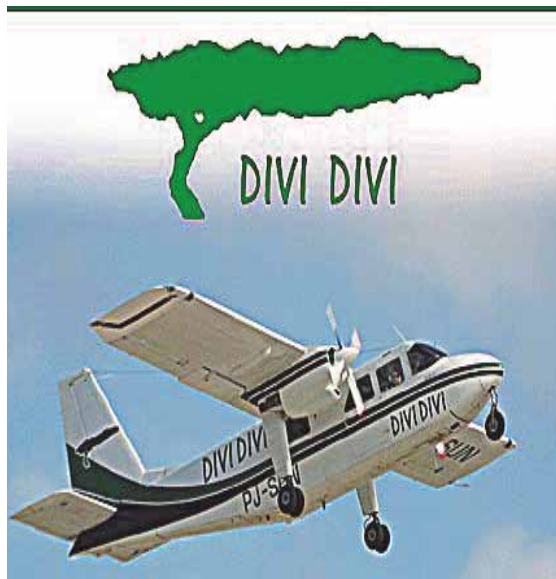
For sale-Nice Chevrolet Silverado, V-
8 Pickup, \$3900. Good engine! body
is ok, inside is okay. Good deal. Call: 787
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Nice design toilets from Fayans "The
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RIB dinghy, no motor: 12 ft AB with
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I'm a woman, 46 years and responsi-
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Bunk bed with mattresses -\$175. 2
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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
Sept. Fri 30	03:58 AST 0.35 ft	08:53 0.17 ft	15:21 1.11 ft	23:46 -0.20 ft		6:24	18:26
Oct. Sat 01	05:06 0.37 ft	09:54 0.18 ft	16:17 1.15 ft			6:24	18:25
Sun 02		00:38 -0.24 ft	06:02 0.39 ft	10:56 0.18 ft	17:11 1.15 ft	6:24	18:25
Mon 03	First Quarter Moon	01:28 -0.25 ft	06:53 0.43 ft	11:57 0.18 ft	18:04 1.12 ft	6:24	18:24
Tue 04		02:14 -0.22 ft	07:40 0.46 ft	12:56 0.18 ft	18:54 1.05 ft	6:24	18:23
Wed 05		02:57 -0.17 ft	08:26 0.50 ft	13:55 0.20 ft	19:44 0.96 ft	6:24	18:23
Thu 06		03:39 -0.10 ft	09:11 0.54 ft	14:56 0.22 ft	20:33 0.84 ft	6:24	18:22
Fri 07		04:17 -0.02 ft	09:55 0.58 ft	16:03 0.24 ft	21:23 0.70 ft	6:24	18:22
Sat 08		04:51 0.06 ft	10:38 0.62 ft	17:17 0.24 ft	22:18 0.57 ft	6:25	18:21
Sun 09		05:19 0.14 ft	11:20 0.66 ft	18:40 0.23 ft	23:25 0.45 ft	6:25	18:20
Mon 10		05:42 0.22 ft	11:59 0.70 ft	20:07 0.19 ft		6:25	18:20
Tue 11	00:56 0.37 ft	05:55 0.28 ft	12:37 0.74 ft	21:24 0.12 ft	Full Moon	6:25	18:19
Wed 12	03:11 0.33 ft	05:46 0.32 ft	13:14 0.78 ft	22:24 0.06 ft		6:25	18:19
Thu 13	13:52 0.82 ft	23:10 0.00 ft				6:25	18:18
Fri 14	14:31 0.85 ft	23:49 -0.04 ft				6:25	18:17

This information is published as an aid to fishermen, divers, windsurfers and sailors

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BonQuiz #61

UNDERWATER ARROWS



It may seem useless to you but this
particular artifact actually had an inter-
esting role in its day.

Thirty years ago when the Bonaire Ma-
rine Park was established these arrows
were laid out under water as a snorkel
route. They still can be found under and
above water around the Plaza Resort ma-
rina where I found this one on land.

Q) Who was the person who 'opened'
the Marine Park, by snorkeling this
route? Where was this location?

Answer on page 18

BonQuiz is written and photographed by
Christie Dovale

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

IslandToursBo-
naire.com Phone 717-
4435 or 795-3456
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SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

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APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS and COMPUTERS

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



BEAUTY PARLOR

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

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.

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.**

DENTURE REPAIR

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ECOLOGICAL PRODUCTS

Bon Eco Solutions has the products you need to save energy and money. They coordinate with other island businesses for a complete sustainable solution.

ON & IN THE WATER

Budget Marine has what anyone with a boat needs, and if its not in stock they can order it quickly. You can also find special hardware for general use and components for solar and wind electric systems.

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, behind TIS.

HOME CARE

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

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Bubbles From the Biologist Freezing Coral



Did You Know...

Many types of corals are becoming extinct?

Have you ever seen Jurassic park? In the movie, scientists are able to bring dinosaurs back to life by using preserved fossils. Even though the movie was science fiction, scientists in Hawaii are actually trying to do the same thing with corals. The coral reefs are in big trouble because of problems like pollution, over-fishing, and global climate change, and many types of coral are in danger of becoming extinct. Dr. Mary Hagedorn at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Science is safely freezing coral tissue, sperm and embryonic cells to try and cryopreserve them for the future. That way, if some corals go extinct, there will be genetic material preserved that may eventually be put back into the oceans and help grow more coral.

Erin Spencer

Erin Spencer is a sophomore at the College of William & Mary in Virginia and hopes to become a Marine Biologist focusing on coral reef conservation. She participated in the CIEE Research Station Bonaire's summer program on Tropical Marine Ecology and Conservation in June of this year.



DO YOU SUDOKU?

To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle without re-

peating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3

Sudoku Solution

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

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

Picture Yourself With The Reporter at the... "Hanoi Hilton" in Vietnam



Jiri Lausman writes, "Please find enclosed a photograph taken recently in the 'Hanoi Hilton,' a prison in the former capital of North Vietnam (now a museum), where mostly American pilots shot down during bombing raids during the Vietnam war were held. Also among them was the late Senator John McCain who spent parts

of his five and half years captivity there. His Skyhawk dive bomber was destroyed just above Hanoi and McCain, seriously injured, was rescued from one of the numerous lakes of the city. In the picture, his parachute and flight suit are displayed in the glass cabinet. One of the beds of the imprisoned pilots is next to the wall." ■

WE NEED MORE PHOTOS!

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

SWNL (Continued from page 11)

By the time the couple reached Curacao, they began doing charters for tourists as a way to financially extend their voyage. The unexpected, two-year delay in Spain had used up precious savings. *Itshi* was first chartered in Curacao, followed by a few months in the Dominican Republic, and then Bonaire.

"We did one-week charters from Kralendijk," confides Jeanette. "We sailed from Bonaire to the Venezuelan mainland and then to Las Aves and back to Bonaire. Then you have a nice trip. It was so pretty."

"There are not many places where you can get away like the Aves," adds Rob. "There is nothing there. No lights, no noise. That's very special in today's world."

The venture turned into a life of chartering and living aboard for nearly two decades. Soon after starting, the couple had their daughter, Sabina, who grew up on the boat. She now is studying law in The Neth-

erlands. "We sailed to Curacao to have the baby in the hospital there," recalls her mother. "Sabina still loves to sail. As a child, she was never seasick and always slept well aboard."

By 1993, Rob and Jeanette realized they needed more room, not only for the family, but to accommodate larger charter groups. They sold *Itshi* in Bonaire and traveled to Miami to find a replacement. "We found a new boat in three minutes!" claims Rob. *Sea Witch* was a 56-foot ketch (two masts), two heads (bathrooms) and four cabins. Rob sailed her back to Bonaire where she was used as a charter boat and home until 2003. *Sea Witch* was then sold to a Dutch family who is currently cruising in Brazil under the name, *Duty Free*.

"We still have contact with some of our former passengers," says Jeanette, "but it was difficult to make money in the sailing charter business. We were basically just breaking even after every season. That is



Seawitch crew: Rob, Sabina and Jeanette

Bonaire Real Estate Reflections

TWO WORDS, TWO THOUGHTS, ONE SUCCESS

The two words are PRICE and VALUE. Sellers believe they have the same meaning, buyers believe the meanings are very different. Success for both comes only when the price is equal to the fair market value perceptions of the buyer community.

Great realtors ask their sellers, "What do you believe the buyers will see as the fair market value of your house?" Almost every seller responds, "I will not take a penny less than, or I must have, or I want so much money." Sellers are on Mars and buyers are on Venus.

Sellers are entitled to put any price they want on their property. Logic dictates that the property will not sell until buyers are confident that the price is equal to the value. It is all about the perception of the viewer.

The seller looks at their property and sees a castle. The buyer looks at the property and sees a modest little house. The bank looks at the property and sees a very modest little house-one too small to lend on. The appraiser looks at the house and says, "What do you want me to see?" The tax collector looks at the house and sees a castle two or three times larger than what the seller sees. The seller's inspector sees a house in perfect condition. The buyer's inspector sees a house about to fall down.

Regardless of how the players look at the house and regardless of what they "see" the house will not sell until buyers believe the value and price are the same.

This is how markets work. When you go to the food store you compare the price of the food with your wants, needs and ability to pay. You compare prices from different stores and different manufacturers. The core belief is that you will buy whatever gives you the biggest bang for your buck. You may pay a penny or two more for a can of tuna fish in one store rather than drive 20 minutes to save a penny.

If you are starving you will have a different perception than if you are full. If you are rich you will have a different perception than if you are poor.

With houses the difference is not measured in pennies but in tens of thousands of dollars. If the seller wants to sell, the seller must look at the market through the eyes of the buyer. The buyer has many choices especially in slow markets.



The sellers have a second hurdle. No matter the dollars and cents comparison that sellers and buyers make, buyers will not buy unless they have a strong emotional connection to the property.

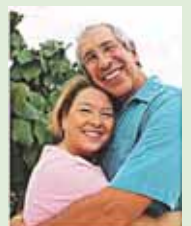
If you would like proof of this go to any community where the houses are exactly the same. Buyers will look for small differences to justify buying one over the other. It may be price, a chandelier, a color or the furniture. The buyer will not flip a coin in buying a house. The buyer will always buy the house they believe offers the highest value for the price.

This is where appraisers often fail. Appraisers measure square feet or square meters and make comparisons between features of houses. The appraiser cannot and does not have the means to adjust for the emotional values that a buyer will bring to the equation.

If a seller can maintain an open mind it is well worth his or her time to visit the competition houses. An open mind is essential. If the seller refuses to see the properties as the buyer will see them the seller will never sell. If the seller uses buyer eyes a sale will happen. ■ *Anna & Art Kleimer*

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

Email:



why we stopped eight years ago."

Jeanette got a steady job as manager for Tropical Travel, a tourist-service company based in the Plaza Resort. Rob bought another boat, *Vida*, a British schooner built in 1928. He tried over the years to build a new hull around the boat's present form, but experienced a number of setbacks. Rob finally realized that by the time he completes *Vida*, he would be too old to sail. The schooner is now for sale.

The couple still dreams of continuing their world voyage that they started nearly 30 years ago. When asked how the transition

was moving back to land, Rob says, "Like now, horrible." "Strange," concurs Jeanette. "I love living on a boat". Their daughter, Sabina, also expressed her desire to join her parents after she completes law school. So the search for the family's next boat continues. Until that yacht is found, the ter Borgs will remain on Bonaire with the rest of the sailors who never left.

■ *Story and photos by Patrick Holian*





BONAIREAN VOICES

BONAIRE IN TURMOIL. WHY?

Political Parties are against each other. The water and electric company, WEB, is in dispute over financial issues with Eco-power, the company distributing electricity, not to mention the blackouts we've had several times recently. Our education, medical system, diets, sports, our social life, families, our governance—and there's more to mention—are falling apart. We don't need to have a masters or bachelors degree to see what is going on and on. All this is happening at the cost to our people. Why do we have to go through this confusion?

The "manifestation" (demonstration) on Bonaire Day was evidence of the people's discontent with the changes. Mr. Eric Soleana (41), inspector in infrastructure at DROB (*Dienst Ruimtelijke Ontwikkeling Beheer*), well-known umpire in softball and baseball, head of the movement, *Boneiru Liber* (Free Bonaire), was asked the reason for the demonstration.



Eric Soleana.

Eric Soleana answers. "We were discussing with friends the problems we're facing in our community. There are too many unclear points since the referendum has come and gone. We feel that Holland is not taking our concerns seriously enough. Top on our list is education. It's getting hard for parents with lower incomes to pay for proper education for their children. Many children go to school without having eaten breakfast. We still have problems with the Papiamentu language in school and we don't know what that will result in. The public was deceived during the election or referendum about how to vote. There's been lack of information which caused manipulations that led Holland to take a wrong direction and then continue in the same direction. We are all against the structure. And we feel everything is going too fast.



Demonstrator at Bonaire Day

Today the RCN (*Rijks Caribische Nederland*) office is giving information about health care. Dollarization itself wasn't a problem; the problem is that the Government doesn't have a rigid control on prices and businesses are taking advantage of this bad product pricing. Through customs the prices of the products can be controlled, but still we have to pay double, sometimes triple, the price in dollars that we paid in guilders. If you have control on the products you can punish those that don't abide by the law.

Our youth has been neglected as well as the parents who don't have the means to give their children what they need - good meals, good education, clothing and a lovely ambience. Then later on we will have to bear with the situation - youth criminality. Why does Holland have to invest money in a prison or in remodeling the police headquarters instead of investing this money in education, sports fields and health? What picture is Holland bringing into our community? Our young need guidelines and free education, especially important for those who can't pay extra for it.

The Bonairean community has been bombarded with immoral laws. Social plans need to be introduced for those with lower incomes and drastic changes need to be implemented for the economy of Bonaire. If the changes don't happen within a short time then people will start getting sick - mentally, physically and spiritually. The pressure on our community can lead to more crime.

The other problem we are confronting is that the young people who are studying in other countries on scholarships need to get their money on time to cover their expenses. We need to fight for these youngsters to keep them in school. But every month we have problems with the student financial office.

Holland sees that our government has been very unstable lately and won't take us seriously. They don't seem to care about the middle and lower classes that are suffering because of the system. They are more eager to get a salary raise as deputy, commissioner or island counselor, instead helping the community that is suffering with the higher cost of living.

Those who are leading this system need to give people trust in themselves to develop, instead of getting outsiders to do the job. We need to invest in our own people, to create our own food in agriculture, create our own professionals and do more in our housing market, so everybody has a proper home of their own. One thing the people have to do is to stand up for their rights and seek information. We need to change our political mentality. The political "color" is not the issue, it's **The Bonairean Rights.** ■ *Siomara Albertus*



Budget Marine Boat Party

OBS photo



Budget Marine and BSaF (Bonaire Sailing Foundation) will promote this year's **Budget Marine Boat Party** at the 44th International Bonaire Regatta on Saturday, October 8. This exciting event has proved itself in past years to be a lot of fun for all and a very exciting event to round off the Regatta. Regatta is not only for sail boaters anymore! The party will have power and sail boats lining up along the shore, the people playing in the sea and on the land. Last year's event hosted over 60 boats, several bands and loads of people. This year among the great entertainers there will be "Mystical Connection," a great Reggae band from Aruba, "Foyan Boyzz," a popular folkloric group from Bonaire, as well as "Rhydd'm" from Curacao to get everyone up and dancing and much more!

Boats wishing to attend are asked to stop by Budget Marine on Bonaire, Curacao or Aruba to register and get all the information and forms to make clearing in easy and the event run smoothly. All pre-registered participants will receive a goodie bag at the event!

The tie-up line will be available from 10am to 6pm on **Saturday, October 8th**. If you arrive in advance, you will have to arrange to use the moorings or marinas as nobody is allowed to tie up in advance. Boats will be allowed to remain on the line overnight at their own risk.

Budget Marine Bonaire is also raffling off a kayak in conjunction with Fun Miles. Each time you swipe your card at Budget Marine Bonaire you are entered in the raffle. The drawing will be on September 31st with the lucky winner being awarded the kayak at the Boat Party! Swipe and win! ■ *Press release*



Duo Xtreme Race



Xtreme organizers D.J. Methorst, Robert Smaal, Frank Bohm, Harry Schoffelen. Not pictured: Mocky Arends

The **Duo Xtreme Bonaire 79-kilometer bicycle race will be on Sunday, October 16, heading off from Divi Flamingo at 6:30 am.** This is the second edition of this major event race in Bonaire and contestants will be coming from, Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela, Colombia, Netherlands, the US and Bonaire. Over 100 participants are expected who will race an extreme and challenging mountain bike trail in pairs, hence 'duo extreme'. Cash prizes over \$3,000 are the highest so far in the Caribbean.

Registration will be Friday and Saturday, October 14 and 15, 5-7pm. Pasta dinner at Divi on Saturday.

The organizers have been preparing for this for months, clearing trails and painting directional stones. They could use some

volunteers to be along the route at water posts and check points. (They estimate 10 liters of drinks per person!). Call Harry at 785-0890. Join up, be a rider, or enjoy being a spectator as the most fit men and women scramble up and down the roads and dirt tracks of Bonaire. The start at 6:30 am should be quite a sight as the riders explode from the north gate of Divi. Website: www.mtbbonaire.com.

Of course this would not be possible without the help of their sponsors:

Van Eps Kunneman & VanDoorne, Insel Air, Firgos, Divi Flamingo, Budget, Rent a Car, Bon Bida Spa & Gym, De Freewieler, Brugman Keukens, Alcon Wines & Spirits, Tafkah.nl, GAIA Pro and MCB Bank. ■ *L.D.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Ongoing Exhibit at Kas di Arte— with different artists. Open Wednesday-Sunday, 9am-noon, 1-6pm, on the sea promenade/ boulevard.

October 1

-Farmers' Market at Kriabon. 8am-12 noon Details on page 2.

-Big Rincon Marshe, 8 am –2 pm. Fruits, vegetables, gifts, candles, local food, drinks.

Sunday, October 2 – Classic Music Concert, 8 pm, Plaza Resort. Details on page 17

Sunday, October 2 –Saturday October 8 Bonaire International Sailing Regatta, Schools closed. Details on page 17



Sunday, October 2 – Jong Bonaire Swim to Klein Bonaire, 7 am, Eden Beach

October 3- 6 – Four-Day Walk-athon. 110 km walk over four days during Regatta Week, By bicycle or foot. Ages 10 and up. Cost \$25. Info 522-1235

Sunday, October 16- Duo Extreme Mountain Bike Race, 79 km. More on page 15
Details on page 18

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 afternoon-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. Lots of free parking. 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 Koeks for more information—796-7870.

Mondays

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

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

Thursdays

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

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

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire:

Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10am.

Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian, in

Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

Children's club, Saturdays, 5 pm, in Kralendijk

Sunday School, Sundays, 4 pm, in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, Thursdays, at 8 pm, Kralendijk.

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

International Bible Church of Bonaire, at SGB High School auditorium (Kaya Frater Odulfinus, off Kaya Corona) 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 Antrio*, 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

Take The Reporter Home—1-year subscription: By mail to US \$75; By mail to Europe \$170. By Internet, Free (asking a \$35 donation.) For information about **subscriptions, stories or advertising in The Bonaire Reporter**, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean; phone (599) 786-6518, 786-6125, E-mail: info@bonairereporter.com

The Bonaire Reporter, George DeSalvo, Publisher. Laura DeSalvo, Editor in Chief. Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. Available on-line at: www.bonairereporter.com **Published every two weeks**

Reporters: Annie, Siomara Albertus, Stephanie Bennett, Maggie Booi, Jan Brouwer, Jo Bux, Christie Dovale, Michael Gaynor, Patrick Holian, Anna & Art Kleimer, Greta Kooistra, Jiri Lausman, Dean Rigas, Erin Spencer, Sam Williams,

Unattributed photos are by the editor or publisher.

Distribution: Elisabeth Silberie & Georgina Sanchez (Playa), Divi-Divi Airline, Ava Rose Wuyts (mailing)

Housekeeping: JRA. **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

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General Program of the 44th Bonaire International Sailing Regatta 2011



Friday, September 30th

19:00-00:00 13th 'Kopa Regata' Domino Tournament at "Kas di Regata"
20:00-23:00 Inspections Regatta Festival Area

Saturday, October 1st

06:00-11:00 2nd Bonaire Red Cross Bicycle Tour at Wilhelmina Park (start Stadium)
06:45 1st Ban Kana ku Braves "La Sonrisa Ball Park" (start/finish)
14:00-18:00 Pre-registration for all classes "Kas di Regata"
16:00-18:00 2nd 'Cargill Wellness Team' Bike Tour
18:00-24:00 13th 'Kopa Regata' Domino Tournament (finals) at "Kas di Regata"

Sunday, October 2nd

06:30-09:30 8th Pia Pia Regatta Walk at "Kas di Regata" (start/finish)
07:00-10:00 11th Swim to Klein Bonaire at Eden Beach (start/finish)
09:00-14:00 Registrations for all classes at "Kas di Regata"

16:00 3rd 'Vierdaagse Bonaire' walkathon (25/30 KM) day 1
17:00-18:00 Skippers Meeting & Race Opening at "Kas di Regata"
18:00-20:00 All Nations Parade in Kralendijk Streets to Wilhelmina Park
20:00-01:00 Opening Ceremonies 44th Regatta & Festival at Wilhelmina Park

Monday, October 3rd

09:00-17:00 Sailing Races in Kralendijk Bay
09:00-12:00 3rd Digicel Regatta Youth Football Days at Kralendijk Stadium
12:30-13:00 Press Briefing at "Kas di Regata"
14:00-17:30 DJ Music / Activities at "Kas di Regata"
16:00 'Vierdaagse Bonaire' walkathon (25/30 KM) day 2
17:00-20:00 After Sail Meeting Point/Video at "Kas di Regata"
19:00-20:30 Skippers Meeting and tossing of Micro Boats at "Kas di Regata"
20:00-01:00 Regatta Festival at Wilhemina Park and Regatta Boulevard

Tuesday, October 4th

09:00-17:00 Sailing Races in Kralendijk Bay
09:00-12:00 3rd Digicel Regatta Youth Football Days at Kralendijk Stadium
12:30-13:00 Press Briefing at "Kas di Regata"
14:00-18:00 Micro Boats races in front of "Kas di Regata"
14:00-17:30 DJ Music / Activities at "Kas di Regata"
16:00 'Vierdaagse Bonaire' walkathon (25/30 KM) day 3
17:00-20:00 After Sail Meeting Point/Video at "Kas di Regata"
20:00-01:00 Regatta Festival at Wilhelmina Park and Regatta Boulevard

Wednesday, October 5th

09:00-12:00 3rd Digicel Regatta Youth Football Days at Kralendijk Stadium
10:00-13:00 Fishing Boats Races / Windsurfing Freestyle Kids in Kralendijk Bay
10:00-17:00 Micro Boats races in front of "Kas di Regata"
12:30-13:00 Press briefing at "Kas di Regata"
14:00-17:30 DJ Music / Activities at "Kas di Regata"
16:00 'Vierdaagse Bonaire' walkathon (25/30 KM) final day
17:30-18:30 27th Comcabon-WEB Run. Start at Kralendijk Stadium
18:30-22:00 Participants BBQ Party at "Kas di Regata"
20:00-02:00 Regatta Festival at Wilhelmina Park and Regatta Boulevard

Thursday, October 6th

09:00-17:00 Sailing Races / Fishing Boats Races in Kralendijk Bay
12:30-13:00 Press briefing at "Kas di Regata"
14:00-17:30 DJ Music / Activities at "Kas di Regata"
14:00-18:00 Micro Boats races in front of "Kas di Regata"
17:00-20:00 After Sail Meeting Point/Video at "Kas di Regata"
17:30-19:00 Working Boat Parade in the Kralendijk Harbor
19:00-23:00 6th Nrd. Braves Int'l Softball Tournament at La Sonrisa Ball Park
20:00-02:00 Regatta Festival at Wilhelmina Park and Regatta Boulevard

Friday, October 7th

09:00-17:00 Sailing Races / Fishing Boats Races in Kralendijk Bay
12:00-12:30 Press briefing at "Kas di Regata"
14:00-20:00 6th Nrd. Braves Int'l Softball Tournament at La Sonrisa Ball Park
14:00-19:00 Music / Activities at "Kas di Regata"
14:00-16:00 Micro Boats races in front of "Kas di Regata"
20:00-21:30 Races Award and closing Ceremony at "Kas di Regata"
20:00-03:00 Regatta Festival at Wilhelmina Park and Regatta Boulevard

Saturday, October 8th

10:00-18:00 4th Regatta Budget Marine Boat Party,, Kralendijk Bay
11:00-18:00 6th Nrd. Braves Int'l Softball Tournament at La Sonrisa Ball Park
20:00-03:00 Closing Regatta Festival at Wilhelmina Park and Regatta Boulevard
23:00 Presentation of the 2012 Bonaire Regatta's 45th edition, logo and plans.

Sunday, October 9th

13:00-22:00 Finals 6th Nrd. Braves Int'l Softball Tournament at La Sonrisa Ball Park, with live musical bands and dancing.

Contact Information for the Regatta Sport and Activities Week

Kopa Regata Domino Tournament. Mr. Efrein (Kilin) Wanga Phone +5999 5260331.
Sigfried Juliana +5999 5299114, Ramfis Sint Jago +599 7969798
Ban Kana ku Braves Ms. Chynesca (Neca) Cornelia +599 7017008
Cargill Wellness Team Bike Tour, Ramfis Sint Jago +599 7969798
Bonaire Red Cross Bike Tour, Mr. John Cecilia / Marciano Silberie / Indira Martinus at phones 7865786 / 7882282 / 7001115
Pia Pia Regatta Walk, Mr Eric Booi Phone +5999 514 8911
Swim to Klein Bonaire, Judith Meyer / Franklin Veeris at Foundation Jong Bonaire Phone 717 4303 / 7860060

Schedule and photos provided by BASF Regatta organizers.

Latin Music Classics

In 1995 "Ese Hombre" sung by Myriam Hernandez was the best selling Latin song of the year. If you want to listen to this song: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dV4Qm362wUA>

Myriam Hernández (born in 1967 in Santiago) is a Chilean singer-songwriter and television presenter. She is known throughout Latin America for her romantic ballads.

Myriam Hernández began her career in the late 80s. At the age of 11 she debuted on the "Televisión de Chile." Based on this she was offered a role in the soap opera, "De Cara Al Mañana."

At 18 she was named "Artista Revelación" (Best New Artist) by the Chilean press before having even recorded a single album.

In December 1988, she released her first album entitled "Myriam Hernández."

In Chile the record got her the "Disco De Oro" and also in other countries it became a huge success. From this moment began her international career.

From her fourth album, the song "Ese Hombre" (That Man), reached the first place on the Billboard charts.

Last week's answer in the music quiz was "La Cumbia" which was a big hit of the group Sailor. The winner was Klaus Kolbe! He can pick up the free CD at Jody's on Lagoen Hill #18. ■ 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, Zucchero, 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.

Sunday, October 2, 2011, 8:00 PM
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The 94th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels." On course for 100+

Meike Stooß und ihre Praline

Sabadeco Shores –
So on Monday I drove my motorcycle towards the airport with the intention of visiting some friends. I realized I was following a little two-tone Datsun pickup. I supposed the car had his domicile on the artificial peninsula along the Julio A. Abraham Boulevard near the Plaza Hotel. I had seen the car there before, being parked along the road on a regular basis. I followed the car and I supposed it would soon turn off. And it did. It bumped through the rural Bonairean outback, direction unknown. Then it stopped and I recognized another vehicle: the beige semi classic Land-Cruiser, owned by Jan Okhuijsen. A secret meeting? Adultery? No. The owner of the little two-tone Datsun pickup and Jan appeared to be busy partners, digging out a very small baby palm. I recognized Jan and I introduced myself to the female owner of the little pick up. I explained my peaceful intentions and handed out my business card. And yes, she was open and interested in a meeting with the intention to write an article about this little two-seater gem!



Meike and her Datsun B120 series Sunny pickup

On Thursday, I found my way to Sabadeco and the car parked on a huge terrain around a huge house. I honked the bike horn and opened the gate. I was expected and we shook hands. "Meike Stooß." "J@n Brouwer, nice to meet you again." Meike is at least as cute and attractive as her little gem. She is very fond of her little vehicle and she uses phrases as: "Best buddies are priceless," obviously referring to her relationship with this little Datsun pick up.

Meike Stooß is from Germany. She came to Bonaire in April 2009 and bought the 1200 cc car in March 2010. Although being used to big Mercedes, BMW and Audi automobiles, she immediately fell in love with this cute and handsome little car. "Das ist mein Auto! Es war Liebe auf dem ersten Blick. Si ist wie eine Praline. Wie eine Nougatschnitte! Ein Wert ohne Preis." As fast as I could I realized it might be better to shift my mind to German. A good exercise for the grey mass in my

skull. So she said: "That's my car! It was love at first sight. She is like a candy. Like a chunk of nougat! Priceless." (Of course the Datsun is like a candy, like a chunk of nougat after the paint job./jb) Meike: "It's just my car. I love it. Forget about the big reliable cars with their double cabins, air conditioning and radio!" Meike bought the little pickup because it was a match with her heart; not a match after wise consideration. It's obvious, apart from Jan, Meike Stooß is really in love with her lovely Japanese creature!

This Datsun is a B120 series Sunny commercial truck. First trucks of this model debuted in February 1971. They are based on the B110 passenger car chassis. Same wheel base, same running gear as the Datsun 1200 Sedan. A lot of those pickups found their way to South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

In March 2010 Meike bought her little charm. She decided to give her reliable vehicle a full blown paint job and she contacted her artistic friend, Felicia Schütte (Also from Germany./jb) to think about a new color scheme for the car. Then she got in touch with Stephen Lamidi, the guy from Surinam who has his workshop in North of Salina. It took him a lot of time and it was quite a piece of work to plaster the vehicle and to make it as smooth and as sleek as possible. The result: from top to bottom: a cream white and grey beige sprayed body with a chocolate brown stripe around the car's hips. Combined with the five spoke, four holes light alloy rims, This 37 year-old charming treasure has a unique appearance.

Meike Stooß: "It looks like a delicious nou-

Pet of the Week

Jane Madden Disko, considered the "Bonaire Animal Shelter Cat Guru," writes (very knowingly) about Maurice, our Pet of the Week.

"Maurice (he insists on the French pronunciation: more-EESS) is an absolutely stunning young man. He is definitely not your typical orange tabby. Maurice has a distinctive, elegantly shaped head in the style of Egyptian cats and his pastel orange coat is unusually and exotically marked. Despite his incredible good looks, he is not at all conceited or stand-offish. Maurice is extremely people-friendly. He loves to be held and stroked and will happily join in a game of go fetch the ball. He is loving and affectionate to his feline roommates as well. Maurice is about eight months old and will be a large, lean adult. He is sterilized, vaccinated and just waiting for someone who would like to have an unusual and loving cat in their home."



Maurice

Things go in cycles, even at the Shelter, where right now there is a number of red furred kittens available for adoption. Stop by and see for yourself. The Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday through Saturday, 9 am-1 pm and 3-5 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

SPECIAL NEWS: Animal Shelter Flea Market and Book Sale, this Saturday, 11am-5 pm. This is a special market because it's followed on October 4 by World Animal Day. Volunteers and staff will show puppies and kittens and people can help feeding the dogs and cats! ■ Jane Madden Disko

gat chunk, like an irresistible praline now! I was delighted when the car came back from its paintjob! I use it every day and most of the time it just starts and does the job. Sometimes, after heavy rainfall, I have to be a little bit more patient. She just wants a little rest to dry off after a heavy shower! I use my car for transporting my two little dogs. It is so funny: a small car and two little dogs in the back. Once, I hope to park my little one next to a huge 4X4 pickup truck with two massive dogs in the back. That should make a nice picture!" Then she opens the door and explains about the natural air conditioning and climate control. Both roll up, roll down windows need their own instructions. The little triangular windows work like an air scoop. The dashboard is as simple as it is functional: A real clock, telling you the time, a speedometer/odometer which stopped functioning and a gauge indicating temperature of the cooling liquid, charging of the battery, the amount of fuel in the tank and beams. Meike especially likes the horn of her little car: "Beep-beep", and the sound of the blinkers and/or the flasher unit: "Pling-pling-pling."

Then she opens the hood. A four cylinder four stroke straight engine in line. One Vergaser/carburetor, a mechanical fuel pump, a dry air filter. No power brakes, no power steering, no power windows, no nonsense. A lot of parts, like lenses and little details were

found in Surinam by Jimmy and Rianne from Tropical Car Care, she informs me.

Meike: "With this car I do 60 kilometers an hour. Sixty kilometers is a comfortable speed which fits the car, the driver and the island. Probably she can reach some 80 kilometers an hour but I don't care. Braking is primitive but accurate. Everything is functioning at the moment but she has her character!" Then Meike leaves for some minutes to prepare a cup of tea. I take my time to shoot a row of pictures and to inspect the vehicle. Four speed gear box, shaft to the rear wheels, 185/60R13 tires, mounted with the rotation direction in the wrong way. Who cares at a speed of 60... Then, later at home, there remains one question: What does the word "Nichir" originally stamped or printed in or on the foam of the dash board mean? Am I the first person who notices this word? Always those questions...

Tea is ready! We find a windy seat on the steps next to the house and talk about life, relationships, nature, dogs, the island... Then she guides me to the front gate. We thank each other. I drive home. Some writing to do.... ■

Story and photo by Jan Brouwer



BonQuiz Answer

Q) Who was the person who opened the Marine Park, by snorkeling this route? Where was this location?



Answer: Prince Bernard, Queen Beatrix's father, in the water in front of what is now the Plaza Resort Bonaire.

Question on page 6

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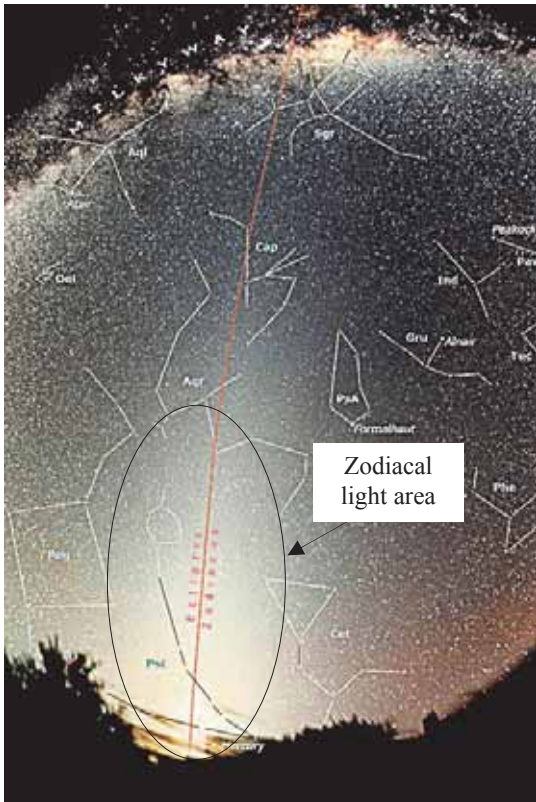
THE FALSE DAWN OF OMAR KHAYYAM"

Almost a thousand years ago the Persian poet Omar Khayyam in his book of poetry, "The Rubaiyat," made a poetic allusion to a mysterious "false dawn" as opposed to the real dawn, which can only be seen at a certain time of year. And happily next week is your best chance this year to see it because there will be no bright Moon light to wipe out this delicate astronomical phenomenon. Let me tell you all about it and what you have to do to find it.

If we could go way out into space and look down on our solar system with superhuman vision, we would notice a faint, almost imperceptible vast cloud extending outward from the Sun in the plane of the orbits of Mercury, Venus, Earth and slightly beyond, an enormous cloud of cosmic dust. And while one would expect it would be impossible to see this super faint cloud from Earth, nevertheless in autumn when the plane of our Earth's orbit is almost vertical to the horizon, we can under the right conditions. And those conditions require that there is no bright Moonlight out and that you must be far away from city lights because even the faintest Moon or man-made light will wipe out the extremely delicate, ethereal glow of the false dawn.

As a general rule, if you can see the Milky Way you'll have a good chance to see this rare phenomenon next week. To see it, look toward the east about two hours before sunrise, before the real dawn. It will look like a wedge or cone-shaped dim patch of light about the same brightness as the Milky Way and it will extend from the horizon about one third to half way up to the zenith ... a ghostly, faintly glowing rounded pyramid of light.

Now the scientific name of this phenomenon is the zodiacal light and it's caused by sunlight scattered from all those trillions and trillions of dust particles which make up the great cosmic cloud. And although Omar didn't mention



it, this false dawn also has an evening counterpart - a 'false dusk', the evening zodiacal light, which looks pretty much the same except that it is visible two hours after sunset in the west in March when the plane of our Earth's orbit is also almost vertical to the horizon. Additionally, if you ever see a similar oval-shaped glow directly overhead at midnight you would be seeing the zodiacal light's sister phenomenon called the *gegenschein* or *counter glow* .

And for those of you who wouldn't think of getting up to take a look at the sky at dawn, we have scheduled a bright planet for you to see early in the evening. Giant Jupiter is now rising in the east not long after dark. Jupiter is almost its closest of the year and is almost as bright as it gets. Jupiter's brightness varies as its distance from us changes, the closer the brighter. It will be closest, at opposition, that is, opposite the sun in the sky on October 28. ■ Dean Regas

Café Astrology October 2011

Aries (March 21-April 20): You will need organizational skills for the next two months along with routine. Now Aries are not known for their organization. They have other things to do like starting new endeavors and leaving the tasks for others to complete. It is a good idea to have the intention for a new state of perfecting what you already know and asking others to assist you in small tasks. Fanaticism will not be appropriate but gratitude is.

Taurus (April 21-May 21): Duty calls. Actually it always does but a new sense of duty has arrived. You will be of two minds. Maintain a rigorous routine or push away any restrictions. Somewhere in between is best, which you know. And that would be bringing a sense of creativity to your duties, a sense of order, and more beauty.

Gemini (May 23-June 20): Work needs to become, what shall I say to you, more steady in its rhythm, more attuned to the heart, and administered with a sense of joie de vivre (joy of life). Others will need strength, comfort, and nurturing from you, more than ever. Make the day's tasks into holy rituals. This will create a fuller sense of well being. You are mother to everyone.

Cancer (June 21-July 20): Don't pursue so many things at one time. This creates a strewn and dispersed sense of self that no one listens to because everyone will know each pursuit leads to more pursuits, all of which lead nowhere. I say this because Mercury has captured your mind and won't cease unless you engage it in study and solitude.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 22): Your most important resource at this time is routine which must be constant, continual, planned, systematic, and determined. You will do your best when others are able to recognize your abilities by offering you more resources and assets. People may want to feed you, which would be their way of saying thank you. It's possible you'll sit too long. Every hour take 15-minute walks. Keep your stamina intact.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Maybe there's a wedding this month-end that you attend. There will be tears and sorrow, but then freedom and liberty. All four words apply to Cancer. Dilemmas will be worked out, understood, and concluded due to inner knowing and cosmic impressions creating thought forms in your mind. Don't worry any more about money.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Life takes on a new flavor, a new way of seeing. This is due to the Full Sun/Moon in your first house of recognizing the self in new ways. The Sun will imbue you with great amounts of Goodwill, which is the outflow of the Will-to-Goodness. It results in Right Relations to all kingdoms. Be aware of this, have the intentions to serve in this way.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Daily tasks will be done communally or at least you will seek this. There is a possibility that you're out of sorts a lot or you are unable to relax. Do know that something within your career and work in the world will take on a new sheen in the coming months. Whatever you do with others, place Right Human Relations at the forefront. The response is invaluable.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20): All tasks become rather tedious, dull and monotonous unless you bring a bit of creativity, relaxation, fun and play into them. You are to seek whatever you loved as a child and renew it. You are to spend a few hours with whatever pleases you, whether it's a child, an affair of the heart, or our present economic state.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 20): You seek expansion in the world at large and will do whatever it takes to achieve this. It's possible you may take on too much at one time and then feel nothing is working. This causes emotional frustration. Most important and needed are more discipline, more humor and the thought that you inspire others to service. You also need intellectual stimulation.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 18): A new relationship with work has dawned as you realize freedom is most essential and you must cast off the excessive demands made by yourself or others. Whatever is binding and/or obligating becomes an albatross. You will discover new ways of serving and working with others so you can truly be yourself. Dull you are not.

Pisces (Feb. 18-March 20): Daily routines are what you are seeking now. But alas, they are not available and won't be for sometime to come. It will soon be time to create organization in all environments. It won't be easy but you will master the order you seek and an aesthetic will emerge. Work on one section at a time. Discard mostly everything. ■ Annie

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