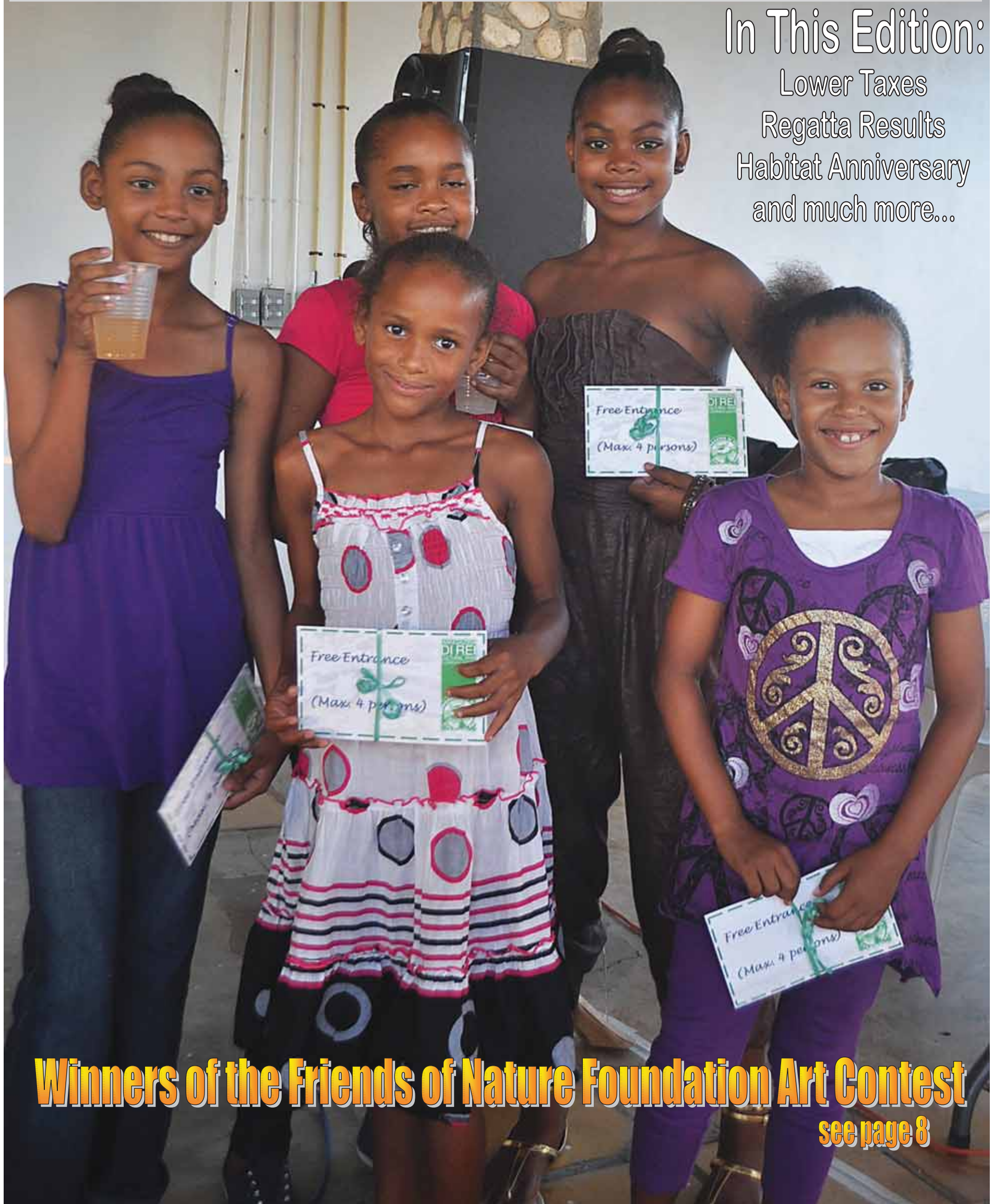


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BONAIRE October 14-28, 2011, Year 18, Issue 20
The REPORTER
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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In This Edition:
Lower Taxes
Regatta Results
Habitat Anniversary
and much more...



Winners of the Friends of Nature Foundation Art Contest

see page 8

Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER



Wangari Maathai, the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize for her campaigns to save Kenyan forests, died in hospital on Sunday, September 26, after a long struggle with ovarian cancer. Maathai, 71, founded the Green Belt Movement in 1977 to plant trees to prevent environmental and social conditions deteriorating and hurting poor people, especially women, living in rural Kenya. She had to endure being whipped, tear-gassed and threatened with death for her devotion to Africa's forests and her desire to end the corruption that often spells their destruction.

She appeared on the cover of *The Reporter* with Delno Tromp in 2006 holding a copy of the newspaper. She was one of the greats of the conservation movement and is an inspiration for all.

► **Look for more yachts visiting Bonaire, especially of European Union registry because Curacao is cracking down.** Curacao issued a final call to all captains, managers or owners of foreign pleasure boats to register the vessels with Customs. Foreign boats are allowed to stay six months, duty free. After that, unless there are extraordinary circumstances, import duty on the vessel must be paid. Last February customs confiscated about 40 boats to collect import duties because the owners did not have the required documents and had exceeded their six-month stay.

► **The organizations that form the Center for Youth and Family on Bonaire will have their own building by the end of this month.** It will be located where the Xavier Medical School was housed. Queen Beatrix and Prince Willem-Alexander who will be visiting the island then along with Princess Máxima will open the new center on Kaya Prinses Marie on October 30th. The center will be the HQ for organizations such as Youth Care Bonaire, Porta Habri, Sebiki and the youth health care.



Bonaire Govt. photo

► **The first Maritime Day on Bonaire was a great success.** Thousands of visitors came to the waterfront to see the vessels and board *Hr. Ms. Pelikaan* of the Dutch Royal Navy and Antillean Coast Guard cutter *Panter*. Demonstrations were given on land, sea and in the air.

► **SCHIPHOL--Ten prisoners from Curaçao and Bonaire were transferred** to more secure facilities in The Netherlands on September 29. Among them was Ryan Pieters, the killer of Dutch intern Marlies van der Kouwe. The prisoners are originally from Bonaire but were locked up in Curaçao for safety reasons because the Bonaire detention center wasn't equipped to guarantee the safety of some of the prisoners well. The interests of the victims and their families played a major role. **All prisoners will return to Bonaire** as soon as the construction of the new Bonaire prison has been completed.

► **The prisoner who escaped from the Bonaire courthouse on September 20, turned himself in at the jail on Wednesday, October 5.** Rogelio Boezem slipped away from guards taking him out of the courthouse following his sentencing to 16 months in prison for taking part in a robbery. While the police gave chase and fired a warning shot, he escaped into the bushes at the hospital and got away.

► **The Dutch Ministry of Waterworks granted Bonaire's BOPEC oil terminal a license under the BES island Maritime Law Management.** The maritime legislation sets rules for certain hazardous activities. It affects two transshipment piers and the transfer of oil products to and from the terminal. These activities are important for the economy of Bonaire, but so is environmental tourism which requires no pollution from BOPEC. The new license sets conditions for fire safety. (According to a special study the out-of-control fire at BOPEC last year was due to

inadequate fire control apparatus and oil spill provisions.) Agreements were made to monitor valued nature areas. Included also were stipulations that regulate nautical safety when mooring so-called "Very Large Crude Carriers." A third tug may be necessary.

► **Curaçao based airline, InselAir, announced on Friday plans to extend its service to Barquisimeto, Venezuela,** which will be the airline's 16th destination. InselAir will operate the route with a Fokker 50 aircraft. Other InselAir destinations include Charlotte, Miami, St. Maarten, Bonaire, Aruba, San Juan, and Santo Domingo.

► **Outperformed by Insel Air, Curaçao based airline, Dutch Antillean Express (DAE),** may be sold to a group of local and international investors led by Aviation Resource of New York within four months. As a result of the restructuring process the airline **temporarily suspended its flights to Aruba and Bonaire on October 11.** They promised to resume within 30 days.

► **The first meeting of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Commission took place in St. Eustatius last week.** During this meeting, the joint management of the waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Kingdom in the Caribbean, the BES islands, was discussed. The EEZ is the sea area of a country that starts 12 nautical miles from the coast and extends from there to 200 nautical miles off the coast, as long as it does not conflict with the waters of other countries. In case of conflict, usually the middle of the distance that separates the two countries is considered as the border. It's purpose is to protect fisheries and mineral and oil rights.

► **The circuit breakers for the power cable distributing electricity to Hato, Sabadeco and Rincon tripped out last Wednesday following a morning rain storm.** A complete inspection of the cable was required before reconnecting it to the grid, but the problem occurred again shortly afterwards. However, despite the efforts the source of the cable problem could not be found and an outage occurred again. The technicians successfully reconnected the power to Hato, Sabadeco and Rincon at about 5:57 pm. It's still working OK.

► **The US Consulate General in Curaçao announces the availability of the Diversity Visa (DV Visa Lottery) Program for 2013.** The annual DV program makes visas available to persons meeting simple, but strict,

(Continued on page 3)

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How to contact us

Letters to the Editor:
Reporter@bonairenews.com
Story tip or idea:
info@bonairenews.com
The Publisher:
George@bonairenews.com

Box 407, Bonaire,
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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) eligibility requirements. Entries for the DV-2013 program must be submitted electronically between noon, on Tuesday, October 4, 2011, and noon, Saturday, November 5, 2011. Applicants may access the electronic DV Entry Form (E-DV) at www.dvlottery.state.gov during the registration period. There are **no costs or fees** to register for the DV Program.

▶ Another Natalee Holloway style investigation is underway in Aruba focusing on the **disappearance of 35-year-old Robyn Gardner**, a Frederick, MD. woman who was reported missing two months ago on the island by her travel companion, Gary Giordano (50) of Gaithersburg, MD. Giordano denies any wrongdoing and says Gardner was swept away while snorkeling on August 2. Authorities became suspicious of Giordano because he tried to cash in a travel insurance policy he took out on Gardner and there were inconsistencies in his story. He's been locked up in Aruba for over five weeks. Gardner has hired attorney Jose Baez who earned nationwide fame in the US after successfully defending Casey Anthony, the Florida woman found not guilty of murdering her two-year-old daughter. A media circus is inevitable.

▶ In The European Netherlands, when **homeowners are forced to sell their homes**, the proceeds of the sale are not always sufficient to pay off the remaining mortgage debt. If that is the case, the NHG (Homeownership Guarantee Fund National Mortgage Guarantee) pays the residual debt to the mortgage lender. This guarantee is available for mortgages of up to €50,000. In the first three quarters of this year 47% of these cases of forced sales were the result of

divorce, and 22 % caused by unemployment. **Does this apply to the Caribbean Netherlands?**

▶ **Interviewers from the Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS)** will be on the road visiting Bonaire businesses as part of the 2011 Business Census between October 21 and December 1, 2011. The economic survey will gather statistics to give a quick impression of the current economic development on the island. The most important results will be published at the beginning of 2012. CBS requests the cooperation of all businesses and is required by law to treat all collected data as strictly confidential.

▶ **Local police on Wednesday, October 5, found the body of a 54-year-old woman** who had been reported missing the day before. **Hiacintha Juliana Maximiliana**, born in Curaçao but residing on Bonaire, was found dead in the sea at Playa Grandi. She had left in her car that morning to go to work in the kitchen at the Plaza Resort. According to the police report she never got there. Police are investigating.

▶ There is still time to **enjoy the great South American culture in Ecuador** just a couple of hours away from us. KLM ends this service from Bonaire on November 1st 2011. Book now until October 15th via the Bonaire-website of KLM.com for the low price of \$271.

▶ **There will be a monthly *Marshé di Kunukeru* (Farmers' Market) every first Saturday of the month at Kriabon from 8 am to 12 noon.** There will be stands selling fruits and vegetables, garden items, fresh fish, seeds, sweet items and more. Kriabon is the farmers' cooperative, established in 1981. It's located at Kaminda Jatu Baco

▶ **The anticipated tax reduction for the BES islands came into force on 10/1/11. It was sooner, but not as deep, as anticipated.** It means that restaurant meals should immediately become 2% cheaper, it will cost less to repair your car, get a haircut, put an ad in *The Reporter* or get any of the other services that had an 8% tax built into the price. Whether business owners will pass on the savings to consumers remains to be seen.



You can bring up to \$500 worth of goods duty free when you travel to Bonaire. Some people's take-home pay should increase and children and seniors will get more from the government.

From the official release: "As of October 1, 2011, several changes in the *Belastingwet* BES (tax laws) will take effect. The *Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland* (Dutch Caribbean tax office) has initiated a campaign to inform taxpayers on the changes.

Changes include an increase of the general tax free allowance (*algemene belastingvrij som*) and the adjustments on child supplement (*kindertoeslag*) and elderly supplement (*ouderentoeslag*). An inflationary adjustment of 5.9% as well as an additional increase of 5% will be applied. The elderly supplement already has been increased on a yearly basis of \$1.022.

The ABB rate for services shall be reduced as of October 1st: from 8% to 6% on Bonaire and from 6% to 4% on Saba and Saint Eustatius. The ABB rate for the import of goods will remain unchanged.

A Customs exemption of \$500 shall be applicable for new merchandise brought in as luggage for travelers over 15, replacing the \$175 limit.

Belastingdienst/CN has created brochures explaining the new rules that can be picked up at the Tax Office. They may also be downloaded from the website www.belastingdienst-cn.nl."

Additional tax breaks to save the Bonaire economy are required, according to many Bonaire businessmen. Among them are relief from the 5% tax when a product passes through Curaçao, reduction in the transfer tax for real estate, and tax breaks for new investors and home buyers.

#55, next to the Aquamarin School. For more information or if you would like to have a stand, call Kriabon at 717-4587.

▶ **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.*

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On the Island Since... September 23, 2003 Johan and Esther van Blerk

“I was working in the cash and carry business of outdoor plants, and during spring and fall - the planting seasons - I was working extremely long days. As long as it was just the two of us, it used to be a great formula because we could take long vacations in summer and winter. We got married when we were very young; Esther was 18 and I was 20. Before the children were born we traveled frequently and very unorganized. We would buy a ticket and a Lonely Planet guide book and then we left. We've been to wonderful places like Tanzania, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Venezuela and Aruba.

When our daughter Linde was born in 2001 and our son Yorick in 2002, there was no way we could travel in such manner with two little kids. Esther, who had always worked full time was now working part time and I was almost never home during the spring and fall. It just seemed like we hardly had a family life and I became very stressed.

When we were in Aruba for vacation we visited friends of ours, Jan van der Straten and his family (a former chief of police on Bonaire), and while talking to them a seed was planted in our minds to go and live in the tropics some day. So, when the children were born and life had become so busy

we started thinking about a change. We thought about Malaysia, well, all different countries, but because we had small children, in the end the wisest thing to do, considering the language, education and permits, was to look for a place in the Dutch Antilles.

We had never been on Bonaire, but because the two of us had grown up in the country we both like the quiet life. To give you an example," *he laughs*, "after Esther and I got married we decided it was about time for us to visit Amsterdam - which no matter how you look at it, it's a must! We went by train and when we arrived at the Central Station we started walking towards the center of town, but after a couple of minutes we got so overwhelmed by the gigantic amount of people that we ran back to the station and took the train to the coast, where we walked along the beach quietly and perfectly happy! So, we're definitely no big city lovers!

After checking out all the different islands of the Dutch Antilles, we came to the conclusion that Bonaire would be the place for us.

Without having seen the island we started applying for jobs and we thought, 'if it doesn't work out on Bonaire, we'll go back, but at least we will have had the experience...'

We thought Esther would have a better chance to find a job, as there wouldn't be a whole lot of work in plants and gardening as the island seemed to be quite dry with very few inhabitants."

"I sent letters to all the administration offices and the government," *Esther says*, "but there was

very little response, so when the summer vacation started we thought, 'let's go to Bonaire!' It was June 2003. We saw the island, applied for jobs and one week after

we'd returned to Holland I was offered two jobs. I chose the one with the government and I got a contract for three years as an executive financial administrator, starting October 1st.

So we sold our house in Holland and we made the move. Johan's mom came with us to help us with the children. We arrived in September and we rented a house in



Daughter Linde, Johan, Bongo the dog, Esther, daughter Melissa and son Yorick who just won the sailing competition in the Regatta - Optimist C.

“... the tranquility and the space around your house, beautiful nature, the diving, the caves, the outdoor life; (Bonaire) has all the things I passionately love... ”

(Continued on page 5)

			
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On the Island Since (continued from page 4)

Sabana. But almost immediately we started looking for a place of our own. We found a lot in Re-publiek which we really liked and we bought it on December 31st 2003!"

"Esther and I designed our own house and where in the world can you do such a thing?"

Johan laughs.

"As I didn't have a job, we thought it would be ideal for me to keep an eye on the construction of the house. So we took our design to a professional to work it out and in May 2004 the Josan Company started building. December 2004 we moved into our house. In the meantime I was working a couple of afternoons a week at Green Label. I'd met Ap when I was buying some plants and checking out 'the market' and it turned out that I had done business with his family in Holland. Work at Green Label was fun and when the island started booming Green Label moved from Playa to Kaya Industria in 2007 where we had 4000 square meters to set up something really special. It has become a unique place for Bonaire."

"After three years working on a contract I got my permanent appointment with the government," *Esther says*, "and after awhile I decided to work part time. Our daughter Melissa was born four and a half years ago and I think it's wonderful to be able to spend more

time with the children. As a family we do a lot of things together. Every weekend we go sailing; we snorkel and barbecue... most people dream of such a life! We do it every weekend!"

"Bonaire is the ideal place for us," *Johan says*. "The tranquility and the space around your house, the beautiful nature, the diving, the caves, the outdoor life. It has all the things I passionately love. I collect fossils and Indian artifacts, shells and stones and tropical drift seeds, bugs and scorpions and little skeletons."

I grew up at the edge of a forest and I spent all my free time outdoors. At elementary school I already knew most of the names of the native trees and plants. It is a passion. When I just arrived here I became friends with Berni and Udo Lusse. It was Berni who showed me all the treasures of the island and she was as passionate about it as I am. Thanks to Berni I learned so much in a short period of time. She was my mentor, my other mother. When you live here, you learn to say goodbye, but when Berni left it was the most difficult goodbye I ever had here. But thankfully, we still see each other when we're in Europe.

The great thing about Bonaire is that you can do so many different things. We go walking along the sea and in the *mundi*, we go canoeing and sailing, we search for all the things we collect and the children have become quite passionate

themselves. They are good at it! They each have their own showcase in their room with their personal findings.

Most of the time we do everything as a family and Esther is a wonderful person - the best girl ever - because she shares my hobbies and understands my passion. And she is a great cook!"

Esther laughs "Johan is a lovely man. He has a solution for everything. He can repair anything and he is very creative and artistic and always full of plans and ideas and... he makes beautiful necklaces and bracelets for me from drift seeds and coconut."

This family is a family in the true sense of the word. The children are sweet and interested and intelligent and creative. The mom and dad are there for each other and the children, and they truly share each other's life and interests.

"I am always doing something," *Johan says*. "I never watch TV, but I do a lot of research on the computer. On Bonaire I'm doing the fieldwork for the research on the banded box jellies. Bud Gillan, an American scientist who's been



Johan and Esther at one of Johan's showcases (Esther's necklace made by Johan).

coming to the island for many, many years, was looking for a new species of box jelly fishes and together with Bud I've been searching for it in the blue waters for years, but it was Esther who encountered the very first one off the beach of No Name. I sent it to the Smithsonian Institute where they did all the scientific work to describe the new species. Well... it triggered my interest in jelly fish and now I go out every month, nine to 10 days after full moon, when the box jellies come to the coast at night to reproduce. Every year I go to see the coral spawning. You know, this is Bonaire... there are so many beautiful and interesting things to see.

I would love to run a nature historical museum on Bonaire because at home I'm at my max. Esther won't let me have another showcase in the house! It would be a dream come true, because ever since I was a child I was a collector. You know, sometimes I get scared, I am already 37 years old and still there are so many great things to do and time flies...."

■ *Story & photos by Greta Kooistra*



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Cover Story Friends of Nature Foundation Art Contest

The Friends of Nature Foundation held a painting contest for children between eight and 12 who attend Rincon's Tra'I Mèrdia Kayena school. Twenty children participated.

The contest is part of Friends of Nature's public awareness program to promote conservation and love of nature. The children were given a tour of the living museum at Mangazina di Rei and asked to make a painting about their feelings. Awards were given at a reception at the Mangazina on September 27th. The distinguished panel of judges represented:

- The Friends of Nature Foundation
- Mangazina di Rei
- FESBO
- Kas di Arte
- Stinapa
- Jan Art Gallery
- El Pueblo Villas who also sponsored snacks and refreshments

A variety of prizes were awarded to the winners: Shanni (first prize), Ileandra, Sharella, Sue Jany, Due Any and Sigely. See the front page



First prize winner

for the photo of these artistic young ladies.

The Friends of Nature Foundation and the children's painting contest is organized by part-time Rincon resident, Parisina Malatesta, who also produces a beautifully illustrated agenda book every year. ■

G.D.



Parisina Malatesta

Focus On: The Freewieler

Frank Böhm And His More Than Successful Second Career

"The Freewieler started in April 1999. My wife, Wilma, had found a job on Bonaire and I arrived one year later. I started working at Hot Shot scooter rental, but soon enough I wanted to do something for myself. And because there were hardly any bicycles on the island – and practically no Dutch bicycles at all – I thought, 'I'm going to set up a bicycle shop!'"

We applied for the permits and then we started. I had no experience whatsoever... except for the fact that I used to fix my own flat tires when I was a kid. But I am a technical man and I'd worked myself up and became a mechanical engineer. That was my first career!

It turned out that finding a location for the shop was the hardest part, but finally I found a space in Kaya A.P.L. Brion, a side street around the corner from Banco di Caribe, and that's where it all began. I went to Holland to visit our 'own' bicycle repair man and he introduced me to the spare parts importer who helped me a great deal and told me, 'I've got an interesting starter package for you!'"

The first bicycle I got in for repair was from Wilma's colleague. I fixed it, then I polished it for at least three days. I ended up asking five guilders for the job. Ha!

However... by word of mouth the business picked up slowly but surely. At the time not many people on the island had a bike, but still there were some that needed repair and I also started selling bicycles. For three years I stayed at the shop in Kaya Brion and then I grew out of it. When I got the opportunity to move to Kaya Grandi #61, across from INPO, I took it with both hands; it was a very good location, situated on the main road.

Nowadays we're the only bicycle repair facility and shop on the island and so it's not difficult to get clients. The interesting part though is to listen very carefully to what it is a customer wants and needs. In this climate not many people go to work on their bikes. But still, there seem to be more and more people who are giving it a try, not only the Dutch but also Antillean people, and I think that's just great! Another category is the off the road sport, mountain biking. I love to go off the road

and to promote the sport. Within our group we see more and more people of all nationalities joining us – Antilleans, Peruvians, Colombians and Venezuelans. At first we would sell the cheaper mountain bikes, now the more expensive ones are hot!

The most expensive mountain bike I've sold was one of \$2,500. However, now I've placed an order for someone for a bike which costs \$5,000!

A basic mountain bike you can get for \$600, going up to \$1000. After that you enter a more expensive category- the sports models.

Recreational bikes, to go for a ride or to go to work, start at \$525 up to \$800. Children's bicycles go for \$265 up to \$420. And mind you... you get a guarantee on all our bikes!

The last three years we had more and more people asking for special clothing, helmets, shoes and accessories and so that's what we're selling now as well.

I'm having a lot of fun! Every day is a good day! And I'm always restless; in for new challenges, innovations and plans. In fact, I'm doing everything by myself. I do get help from the trainees of SGB high school and sometimes I have part time help working for me, but it all depends on the amount of work. At a certain point I also started making keys and now the new machine is really making money! I'm not renting bicycles anymore, but Edmee Hagendoorn from Caribbean Sports is doing it here in my place, \$15 for a recreational bike and \$18 for a mountain bike.

In the beginning I didn't have the slightest idea of what to expect, but the business has become a tremendous hit and the fun part is that I can do what I want!

Of course there are always more repairs
(Continued on page 7)



Frank Böhm

The Impossible Is A Little Harder

The *Oscarina* was one of Bonaire's prime charter yachts for more than 10 years. Now she is to be moved near the new owner's home so he can do a complete refit. But she is inside a yard whose entrance is 12-feet wide... but the yacht is 12.5 feet wide.

How to move her out without an expensive crane and flatbed trailer?

Call Ghostbusters? No, call Jan Blonk of **Bonaire Boat Storage & Repair B.V.** Jan, who previously owned the boatyard next to the WEB plant, designed and had built a heavy duty, remote controlled, hydraulic trailer that easily can handle the *Oscarina's* 15 ton weight. The photos tell the story. ■ G.D.



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Happy Birthday Elizabeth

Elizabeth Silberie -October 23

Thank you for making sure *The Bonaire Reporter* reaches all the many places in Bonaire

Body Talk

ALUMINUM AND BREAST CANCER – IS THERE A LINK?

If human perspiration is largely odorless, then why do we so easily have an odor when we have not used an antiperspirant? The short answer is that our perspiration ferments through bacteria that thrive in a hot humid environment, and the human underarm is among the most consistently warm areas on the surface of the human body. Sweat glands provide moisture, which when excreted, has a vital cooling effect.



When an armpit is washed with soap (most soap are alkaline pH) the skin loses its acid mantle, raising the skin pH in that area. Many bacteria thrive in this elevated pH environment. Underarm hair wicks the moisture away from the skin and aids in keeping the skin dry enough to prevent bacterial colonization.

Shaving underarm hair is almost a rite of passage for a young girl and we continue this ritual for many years till, I suspect we just cannot reach those areas any longer! Society today frowns when a hairy armpit is exposed, and most men in the western world think it is a total 'turn-off'.

Many studies have been, and still will be, done about the possible link between breast cancer and antiperspirants, and the following may give you some food for thought.

The majority of breast cancers occur in the part of the breast that is the closest to the armpit, where we apply antiperspirants. This location is referred to as the Upper Outer Quadrant (UOQ). The proportion of breast cancer in the UOQ has been rising steadily from 31% in 1926, to 43-48% in the late 40s (incidentally when commercial antiperspirants hit our shelves?), to 60.7% in 1994. (More on statistics in the next issue).

Only 5-10% of breast cancer is genetic, leaving up to 90% from the environment and lifestyle. Common sense dictates that there has to be more to this problem than just an environmental and lifestyle issue. Possibly the only single factor is that most women shave their armpits, apply antiperspirants and use cosmetics on a daily basis. The question is then, how could antiperspirants possibly be linked to breast cancer?

The focus here is on a preservative used in many thousands of cosmetics, foods and pharmaceutical products to which we are exposed. Particular preservatives called parabens, are permitted as preservatives in food and also cosmetics, and in a 1995 survey of 215 cosmetic products, found that parabens were used in 99% of leave-on products and 77% of rinse-off cosmetics.

Where parabens have been considered safe for many years, there is currently evidence of their endocrine (hormonal system), reproductive and development effects. Parabens are absorbed through the skin and, once in the body, affect the hormonal system by mimicking oestrogen, the hormone that promotes cell growth. Parabens have actually been detected in human breast cancer tumors. Now two steps are needed to cause cancer: DNA has to be damaged, resulting in damaged cells and growth promotion of these damaged cells.

There are several ways that DNA could be damaged as a result of using antiperspirants. Your body normally disposes of waste products through sweat, and by applying an antiperspirant - in effect blocking these apocrine glands, results in an accumulation of toxic waste products in the armpit that can cause damage to the adjacent breast cells. *To be continued...* ■

Stephanie Bennett

Stephanie Bennett was born in Cape Town, South Africa, where she studied herbs, minerals and nutrition. Before moving to Bonaire she continued her studies in the UK and now researches Bonaire health issues.



Freewieler (Continued from page 6)
than selling new bikes, but the sale of spare parts is a constant every day thing, especially tubes! The thorns, the bushes, the cacti and the bad roads make sure there's always work. The Wabi tree is a bad bush, but for me it rocks!

Next year we want to start a club and everyone is welcome! Recreational biking and

sports – everything under one roof. On Bonaire you have all the possibilities: flat land around the south and lots of dirt roads and goat tracks all over the island. I'm glad I started here for myself. It's a very interesting business. I am one lucky guy and I'm having a whole lot of fun.

■ Story & Photo by Greta Kooistra

ALL DENTURE LAB

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Bonaire Reporter- October 14-28, 2011



TEACHERS SPEAK OUT

Dear Editor:

Recently there was a group of Dutch people, project leaders hired by the OCW (Department of Education and Cultural Science), sent to the island to listen to what teachers on the BES islands are hoping for in their jobs. They came to gather information and do research on the BES islands.

This was a great opportunity because it was the first time in history on Bonaire that there was attention paid to teachers. Every type of school on every level was part of this project. Before the big meeting the project leaders gathered schools together for workshops to discuss what we need and how we should like to work as teachers.

After the first workshop the teachers from the different schools had meetings with their own schools.

Then on the 29th of September there was the big meeting with all schools, teachers and other organizations at Plaza Resort from 4 pm until...

During that meeting led by the Dutch group that specializes in these kinds of projects every school came up with what they would like to have in order to feel better doing their jobs as teachers with more happiness and satisfaction. Neither

school principals nor school boards were included; they were represented, but this time the teachers were in the spotlight.


Things came up like,

- Too much work; there is no end to a working day; teachers must be available 24 hours.
- School boards and government should be more involved with problems in the work place and also show more care for teachers' personal problems.
- Teachers are making less salary but spending more hours during and after school.
- Dutch rules are coming into our jobs, but the nice things in the work place are not there: (Eg. getting older with fewer working days, 10 extra free days that can be used when needed for family, business, etc.)
- A lot of changes have been made but they haven't made the school function better.
- Airco in classrooms
- Parents' education
- Media in schools - to let the world know what kind of problems teachers are facing: kids, parents, programs, computers that are not working, lack of respect for teachers by society, etc.

This was a great day for teachers to let things come from the heart. It touched the teachers emotionally too. The project leaders were very satisfied with the results and promised to take this all to Holland to the OCW and then see what they will do about it. Not everything can be accomplished, but at least they now know what teachers are hoping for in the workplace on the BES islands.


There will be a follow up at the end of the year.

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The Bonaire Regatta - More Than Just A Race

The Bonaire Regatta, created by Captain Don, Ebo Domacassé and their fishermen friends more than 44 years ago, has grown into more than a sailing event. Schools are closed as a prelude to a full week of sports competitions, street and boat parties, top notch entertainment, fun and of course sail boat races.

Swim to Klein Bonaire

On Sunday, October 2, more than 300 people participated in the 11th annual Swim to Klein Bonaire Jong Bonaire fundraiser. Rosita Paiman from the Fit 4 Life gym did the warm-up and then everyone was into the water.

Although it was by no means a race the first to finish was Pieter Zweers. Other top finishers:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Men | Women |
| 1. Pieter Zweers in 34.40 minutes | 1. Tirzah Richards 37.13 |
| 2. Lennart Kluiters in 35.27 | 2. Rijda-Luz Emer.15 |
| 3. Samson Evertsz in 37.56 | 3. Kaile Finies 39.45 |



Jong Bonaire Photo

Swimmers are off to Klein Bonaire



First finisher Pieter Zweers is greeted by his wife Morayma



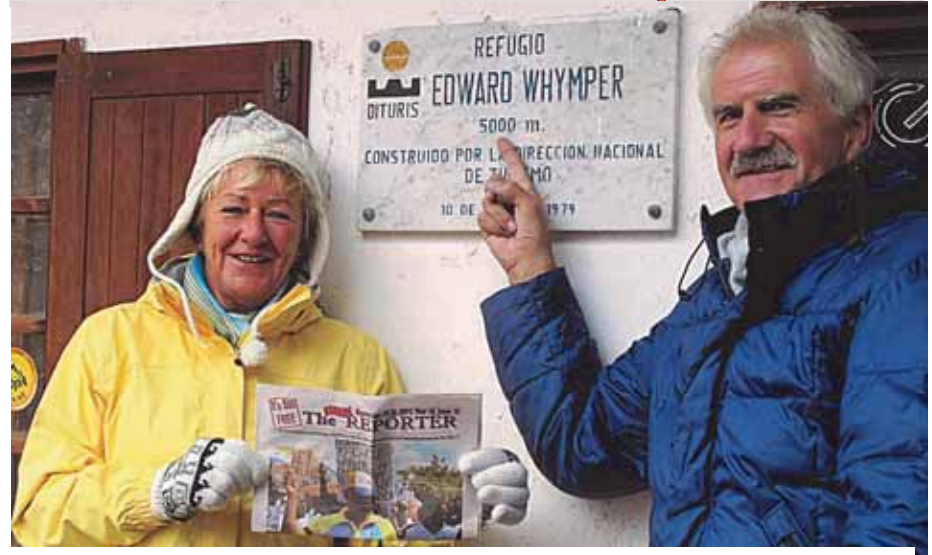
Marian Walthie photo

All swimmers: Finn van Dam, Brent van Dam, Peter van Dam, Yke Constandse, Jente Constandse, Cai Hulsker, Gijs Constandse



Just one of the many groups in the All Nations parade - from Surinam.

Picture Yourself With The Reporter at the... Chimborarzo Volcano, Ecuador



Marianne Jacobs and Etienne Schoenmaeckers have a Reporter first. The first "Picture Yourself" sent directly from the destination pictured. They write, "Right now we are on holiday in Ecuador. We just had a picture taken with a copy of The Reporter. We stand here at 5,000m altitude on the highest mountain in Ecuador, Chimborarzo. We will be back on Bonaire next Saturday." ■

WE NEED MORE PHOTOS!

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CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY SPECIALS

The Bonaire Regatta - More Than Just A Race

Patrick Holian photo



Big yacht tacking deul



Regatta Organizer Byron Tromp declares the opening of regatta 2011 following the all-nations pa-

The large numbers of microboats attracted both big and little people.

Bonaire circulation assistant Ava Wuyts checks a boat's rigging.



The 44th annual Bonaire Regatta ran from Monday, October 3 through Friday, October 8. There were a large number of participants, a relaxed atmosphere, sunny cloudless weather and a good wind. Ideal circumstances for a successful regatta. Said race director Viktor Wijnand. "We have a lot of participants and perfect sailing weather, certainly compared to what we had in the previous years. In 2010 we were confronted with a lot of rain and lack of wind, this year

though it's exactly the opposite". This year's regatta registered 25 yachts, 50 small boats, 7 windsurfers and a still unknown number of microboats. The total number of participants were in excess of 150. All races started on time, the wind was good and the courses were sailed as planned. No protests were filed. For results, please go to the internet at <http://www.bonairegatta.org/results2011.htm> ■ G.D.

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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
October Fri 14	14:31 0.85 ft	23:49 -0.04 ft				6:25	18:17
Sat 15	15:09 0.89 ft					6:25	18:17
Sun 16		00:23 -0.07 ft	15:49 0.92 ft			6:25	18:16
Mon 17		00:53 -0.08 ft	16:28 0.95 ft			6:25	18:16
Tue 18		01:21 -0.09 ft	07:29 0.35 ft	10:20 0.34 ft	17:09 0.95 ft	6:25	18:15
Wed 19	L Quarter	01:46 -0.08 ft	07:32 0.39 ft	11:32 0.32 ft	17:50 0.93 ft	6:25	18:15
Thu 20		02:10 -0.07 ft	07:49 0.45 ft	12:41 0.30 ft	18:32 0.88 ft	6:26	18:14
Fri 21		02:34 -0.05 ft	08:15 0.55 ft	13:53 0.28 ft	19:17 0.79 ft	6:26	18:14
Sat 22		02:58 -0.03 ft	08:50 0.66 ft	15:10 0.25 ft	20:07 0.68 ft	6:26	18:13
Sun 23		03:25 -0.01 ft	09:30 0.79 ft	16:32 0.21 ft	21:05 0.55 ft	6:26	18:13
Mon 24		03:54 0.02 ft	10:15 0.92 ft	17:57 0.14 ft	22:15 0.42 ft	6:26	18:13
Tue 25		04:27 0.05 ft	11:05 1.03 ft	19:21 0.04 ft	23:41 0.31 ft	6:26	18:12
Wed 26	New Moon	05:04 0.09 ft	11:58 1.13 ft	20:36 -0.07 ft		6:27	18:12
Thu 27		01:20 0.26 ft	05:50 0.14 ft	12:53 1.19 ft	21:41 -0.17 ft	6:27	18:11
Fri 28		02:56 0.26 ft	06:47 0.19 ft	13:50 1.22 ft	22:38 -0.24 ft		6:27

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Monique

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Captain Don's Habitat Is 35

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Last week we had two interesting conversations with clients about Bonaire real estate. The conversations offered a unique insight into how others see our beautiful island and the values in our real estate market.

The first conversation was with an American who has been trying to sell his house without a realtor. His explanation is he is financially strapped and has to save the realtor commission costs. The house has been on the market for 22 months and he has had three showings and no offers.

We asked what he thought the problem was. He immediately responded, "the American economy." After 10 minutes he paused in his litany of American economic issues and said, "That is just the beginning..."

He went on to explain other causes of his problems, speaking fervently about the confusion and ramifications with 10-10-10 and tax law changes and higher taxes.

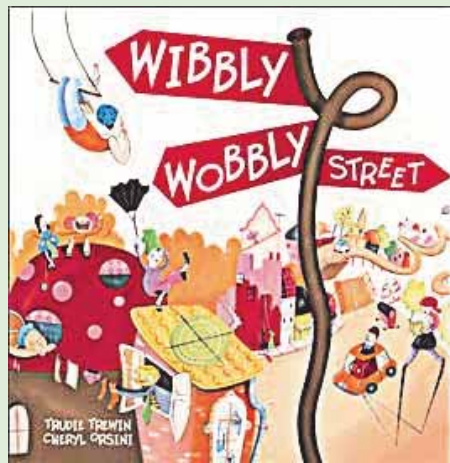
He never thought that he had over priced his property and that asking more than fair market value was the real cause of his failure to sell. His closing remark was, "Americans have stopped coming but thank goodness the Dutch are doing well and are continuing to come." Little does he know.

Another conversation was with a very sophisticated Dutch real estate investor. He spent five days on Bonaire looking for an investment and also a vacation home. He had already made similar trips to Curaçao, Aruba and St. Maarten. Because he had lived here years ago and had fond memories of Bonaire he had high hopes of making a great investment and buying a vacation home.

At the end of the trip he said he sadly had decided he could not buy or invest on Bonaire.

Like the American, he pointed to confusion in law and taxes because of 10-10-10. He was disappointed to see a lot of property for sale but almost no properties sold. "Don't the people owning on Bonaire know the world, especially Europe, is in a recession? Why are the prices so high compared to the other Dutch islands? The Euro is dropping almost daily and that raises the prices on Bonaire.

We shared with him the conversation with the American owner and he laughed out loud. "The Euro used to be equal to \$1.50 today it equals \$1.32, a drop of more than 10%. The Dutch government is running large deficits and despite working



hard has not been able to lower the deficit as a percent of GDP. Greece, and potentially Italy, Spain, Portugal and Ireland may cause the collapse of the Euro and/or the EU. Europe is fracturing into north south zones and is definitely in recession with no light at the end of the tunnel. Our financial markets often drop 2-3% a day and have lost three years of growth. The Dutch are not coming to Bonaire. I met many Dutch leaving Bonaire!"

"I found some really great values on the other islands. Unlike Bonaire sellers they know what is happening in the world and have lowered prices to increase values."

As realtors with decades of experience we know that all markets revitalize and become active the moment sellers and buyers realize the only way to achieve their goal is to ask and pay fair market value.

Properties are selling on Bonaire. They are not selling at 2006, 2007 or 2008 prices. They are selling when priced to reflect their true fair value. Today that means the current true cost of the land and construction costs.

There are many reasons buyers see replacement cost of construction as being equal to fair market value. In today's wobbly marketplace, if you want to sell your Bonaire property, value it in terms of replacement costs. ■ Anna & Art Kleimer

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

Bonaireislandrealestate.com



Captain Don

Captain Don's Habitat, the dive resort that set the standards others try to match, celebrated its 35th anniversary with its usual great party on Friday, September 30. Longtime Bonaire fan Dr. George Buckley from Harvard was most eloquent.

"Congratulations on the grand occasion of Habitat's 35th Anniversary! Captain Don's nugget of an idea that hatched the vision of Habitat and his dedication to task - call it brilliance? - has led to one of the world's premier diving destinations and along the way brought his beloved Bonaire to world renown while leading the pack vis a vis coral reef conservation. Hail our Papi! Jack Chalk has carried the torch, set high standards and kept the 'Holy Grail' these past years and with the sage support of Henry has brought Habitat to the forefront of the industry. From the Boston Sea Rovers, to the Cousteaus at Earth Echo to Harvard University, it is Jack to whom we turn for ideas, help and guidance. Albert's strong creativity and forward thinking pushed all at Habitat to strive for higher levels of achievement. His spirit will always be with us. Happy birthday Habitat."

The occasion was used by Habitat investor Henry van der Kwast (the "Henry" in George Buckley's congratulatory note

above) to address a less joyous issue: crime and its impact on Bonaire's economy. He said, "The situation on Bonaire will only get worse if the current government does not take any action against the increasing crime." Five years ago Van der Kwast was slightly more positive, but much has changed since then. "We can invest millions in tourism marketing for the island but this investment will be to no avail if tourists only see the issue of crime and that no action is taken."

"The costs of living and doing business have also increased considerably, in some cases even by 40%," he added, "and instead of lowering the electricity costs as promised, these have been increased."

Major hotels on Bonaire are being confronted with increasing competition from condominiums, apartments, small hotels, bed & breakfast operations and private residences. "Although there's nothing against healthy competition, many of these accommodations don't pay room tax. At the very least we suggest declaring a moratorium for new applications to run a tourist accommodation."

Van der Kwast also discussed the decline in tourists from the US. In previous years that market was good for 60% of the total visitors compared to the current 38%. ■ G.D.



van der Kwast

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info@bonairenauticomarina.com

BonQuiz #62
CORAL ROCK BOULDER



In this photo you can clearly see a huge boulder on the shoreline of the east coast of Bonaire. For those of you who enjoy gallivanting around the island you will be able to tell where this boulder is located.

Q) How did this boulder get there? There are several theories. Answer on page 14.

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:

IslandToursBonaire.com Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456
Email: christie-dovale@hotmail.com



Duo Xtreme Race

A major mountain bike sporting event will take place next Saturday, October 16. There will be over 100 participants from Aruba, Curaçao, Venezuela, Colombia, The Netherlands, US and Bonaire.

They will race an extreme and challenging mountain bike trail of 79 kilometers in pairs, hence 'duo extreme'. The start will be at 6:30 am near the Divi Flamingo. The leaders are expected to take around four hours to complete the challenging course. Cheer them on at the start or along the route. To sign up call Harrie at 785-0890.

Sponsors are Van Eps Kun-neman & Van-Doorne, Insel Air, Fingos, Divi Flamingo, Budget, Rent a Car, Bon Bida Spa & Gym, De Freewieler, Brugman Keukens, Alcon Wines & Spirits, Tafkah.nl, GAIA Pro and MCB Bank. ■ Press release



SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

Bubbles From the Biologist

AIRLINES

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

APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS and COMPUTERS

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



BEAUTY PARLOR

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

CARS AND BIKES

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

DENTURE REPAIR

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

DINING

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

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.

PHOTOGRAPHER

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

REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS

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

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



RETAIL

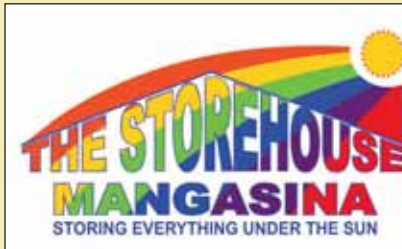
Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

SECURITY

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

STORAGE

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



SHIPPING

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



SPAS/GYM

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



SUPERMARKETS

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



More for Less

Bonaire's "boutique" supermarket with a wide selection, specializing in organic fruits and vegetables, unique products and fresh flowers. On the Nikiboko Road North

WATER TAXI

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

WINES

Antillean Wine Company. You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery. Kaya Industria 23, Mon.-Sat. 9 am-1 pm.



Wikipedia photo

Did You Know...

...that Bonaire's reef is host to **solar-powered slugs**? Among the reefs of Bonaire resides the **lettuce sea slug**, a curious creature that moves along the bottom searching for a food source that it uses in unlikely ways. Its colorful ruffled body is often seen on the reef searching for food. The lettuce sea slug enjoys eating algae but it doesn't just eat the algae, it also uses it to photosynthesize.

Photosynthesis is the process by which plants eat. Plants (both land and water) use sunlight to produce sugars to make their own food. Using their internal machinery known as **chlorophyll** (which also gives plants their green color) the plants can harness the sun's energy to convert carbon dioxide that they take from the water into sugars.

The lettuce sea slug has the ability to extract chlorophyll from the algae and transfer it into their body tissues where it can photosynthesize sugar for the sea slug. This process is known as **kleptoplasty**. The slugs can only store the chlorophyll cells for a short time before they degrade and need to be replaced with new ones. The slugs get a small portion of their energy from the chlorophyll because most of their energy comes from digesting algae.

These unique animals are found in the order **Sac-coglossa**, or the sap-sucking slugs, which are different from other types of slugs you may see on the reef such as **nudibranchs** or anything with a shell. Lettuce slugs are one of only a few species found in the Caribbean that have the ability to photosynthesize. Next time you're on the reef look around, because you may just see one of these solar-powered slugs. ■

Christina Wickman is a former CIEE Research Station Bonaire student and has returned to Bonaire to help out with the fall semester as a teaching assistant. She's from Oregon and plans to continue in the field of Marine Biology & Conservation.



DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

Sudoku Solution

3			7			6			ø	8	4	7	1	2	5	ε	e
				6		2	9		e	5	7	ø	ε	8	1	4	2
7		4							ε	1	2	e	5	4	ø	7	8
9	8		5						5	ø	1	ε	2	7	8	e	4
2						7			8	7	e	4	ø	1	ε	2	5
		7	9	8		3			4	2	ε	5	8	e	7	ø	1
			2	9	5		3		1	ε	ø	2	e	5	4	8	7
6							4		2	4	8	1	7	ε	e	5	ø
3	1					2			7	e	5	8	4	ø	2	1	ε

Fortnightly Advertisers in The Bonaire Reporter are included in this guide. Free!

To place an ad call 786-6125, 786-6518 or email laura@bonairenews.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Cruise Ship Calls -Information provided by the TCB

Day	Date	Ship	Arrive/Depart	PAX Cap	Line
Tuesday	October 25,	<i>Emerald Princess</i>	1200-1900	3100	Princess
Friday	October 28,	<i>Zuiderdam</i>	0800-1700	1918	HAL

Crafts Market at Wilhelmina Park on Fridays and Cruise Ship Visiting Days—usually 10 am until ship departure.

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Cruise Ship Season starts October 25—Look for ship call schedule in every Reporter on this page

Wednesday, October 12—CIEE Research Station Bonaire lecture: "Bats, Caves And Cacti, Ecological Treasures Of Xeric Regions." At CIEE, Kaya Gobernador N Debrot 26 by Fernando Simal, 7 pm

Sunday, October 16—Duo Extreme Mountain Bike Race, 79 km. More on page 11 -Fashion Lunch at Sorobon Beach Resort to benefit Miss Bonaire. 12.30 – 2.30 pm. \$25. Hosted by Hippie Chique, Pzazz & Miss Bonaire Organization

Arts and Crafts at KonTiki, 10 am-7 pm. See art works and artists working on their projects. Raffle to benefit Jong Bonaire. Information call Miriam at 717-5369, info@KontikiBonaire.com.

Wednesday October 19- CIEE Research Station Bonaire lecture: "Coral Recruitment in the Gardens of Good and Evil." At CIEE, Kaya Gobernador N Debrot 26 by Raphael Ritson-Williams of the Smithsonian Marine Station

Saturday, October 22 – Back on Track Rock 'n Roll Group plays at Little Havana. Start time –8 pm

Wednesday, October 30– Visit of Queen Beatrix and the royal family to Bonaire. More details in the next edition

Saturday, November 5 - Marché di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market) at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am-12 noon –More on page 3.

Saturday, November 19– Classical Music Board presents alto Nicole van Eer and pianist Armond Simon at Cacique Hall . See page 20

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.

• **Kas di Arte—Ongoing exhibit with different artists. Open Wednesday-Sunday, 9 am-noon, 1-6 pm. On the sea promenade**

Saturdays

- **Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market) 1st Saturday of the month**, at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am to 12 noon.
- **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 Koeke for more information—796-7870.

Mondays

- **Soldachi Tours of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria, 717-6435-best island tour value
- **Meet the Captain Night at Captain Don's Habitat Bar**– Get up close and personal with Bonaire's dive pioneer. The Captain will autograph your copy of his newest book Reef Windows.

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, Naf2,50, call Renata at 796-5591 to find out the evening's location.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, Republiek. Services are held on Sunday mornings from 10am until 11:30am. Bible studies in English are on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

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

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

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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

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The 95th 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+

A Continental Boy in the New World

Bonaire/Republiek; Minnesota-

So on Saturday October 1st, at exactly 6 o'clock in the morning, Bertiena and Wiegert stopped their 1979 six cylinder 3.0 liter inline classic Opel Monza A1 in front of my house to pick me up for a flight from Flamingo Airport, Bonaire, to Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. Because of weird connections and technical problems it took us 40+ hours and four planes to get there. Our suitcases were there way before us. They were stored and chained in the basement of the airport. Bas, our friend, arrived around five in the afternoon in his fully equipped Ford Explorer to pick us up and drive us to Bas' company and to the lake house he and his wife Anneke prepared for us. The brown-red metallic-prayed Lincoln Continental, owned by Wiegert de Jong, was parked in the double garage of the lake house.

We dropped our luggage and inspected the house. Then Wiegert and I went to the garage. Wiegert opened the door on the driver's side, positioned himself behind the steering wheel, pressed the gas pedal several times, turned the ignition key and cranked the engine. After some seconds and a little bit of coughing and hissing the engine came to life. The huge V-eight 460 cubic inches/7.4 liters turned over smoothly and Wiegert engaged the automatic three-speed gearbox in reverse. "Gloh, gloh, gloh, gloh, gloh, gloh, gloh." This is the real and solid sound of an honest American-made V-eight. We drove the car out of the garage and parked it in the driveway. Time for some uncommonly smooth Red Dog premium beers from the Plank Road Brewery in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Then we hit the sack and collapsed.

The next morning we had our first mug of coffee, sitting outside enjoying the view over the lake and the hilly cornfields. (Minnesota is the state with the 10,000 lakes.) We had breakfast with bacon and eggs. Then it was time to inspect the immense four-door full-luxury Lincoln Continental. I opened the bonnet (hood ed.) and checked the engine oil, automatic transmission fluid, brake fluid and the cooling system. A little bit of cauliflower corrosion on the battery. Some air missing in the front tires. All in all the entire vehicle appeared to be in an original and healthy condition. Then we drove to Alexandria to visit some automotive shops and general stores.

Wiegert: "A couple of years ago, I think in 2009, I visited the US. I bought this 7.4 liter Continental in the little and sleepy village of Milona., The car was fully original, solid and sound and it had only 69,000 miles. I bought the Lincoln from the first owner. His initials, CTO, are on two original Lincoln plaques on both sides of the body. CTO bought his car at McGuire, Rugby/Alexandria, Minnesota. He used his limousine only during summertime. When he did not use his car, it was always parked in the garage. In Minnesota temperatures in summer can be as high as 35 degrees Celsius and in winter approx 35 degrees below zero. So cars suffer a lot from high tem-



perature and sunlight and from the cold as well. This car has always been garaged and well maintained by the dealer. When I bought it there was still an original battery under the hood. I equipped the car with four new tires. That was all. I paid the insurance and I re-registered the car as a collector's item." Wiegert stops the vehicle and shifts to park. Then he steps out to show me the license plate. Proudly Wiegert reads: "Minnesota 745-217 Collector." In the front there is no license plate. Not necessary in this no nonsense state!

Then we jump in the boat again. The odometer now reads 77,000 miles, so Bertiena and Wiegert covered some 8,000 miles without any problems!

With my left ear I listen to Wiegert who informs me about his vehicle, his affection with V-eight engines, his love for the US. There is a kind of assimilation between Wiegert and V-eights. He always drove cars with this type of engine and he has the intention of sticking with cars with huge engines like this all his life. With my right ear I listen to the heavenly sound, "Gloh, gloh, gloh, gloh, gloh, gloh, gloh." With low speed and low revs we are floating over the tarmac in the direction of Alexandria.

The view is great. The car is huge. It takes 12 meters to turn the vehicle. The windshield is impressive. The Lincoln has cruise control, at least three cigar lighters, power windows, power steering, power brakes, power antenna, power everything. The two luxury benches seats are big enough to spend a night in the car. Even the trunk in the rear has enough space for a boy and a girl in their sleeping bags zipped together...

A nice girl drives a small and very old little Farmall. She waves at us. People here use their tractors like the Dutch use their bicycles. No driver's license needed, no registration. And insurance is low!

Then we make a stop at a local gas station. Wiegert shifts into park and shuts off the engine. With the engine idling it is hardly impossible for the guy from the gas station to get the tank completely filled. Gas prices are acceptable. We get the windshield washed and Wiegert starts the engine. We wave at the guy. Automotive shops and second hand classics are waiting for us. We are on the road again! ■

Story and photo by
Jan Brouwer



Pet of the Week

What a great pal "Farah," our Pet of the Week, could be. She is full of fun, she's energetic and would love to find an owner who could appreciate her. She'd make an excellent watch dog who would be protective of her owners, but she's also very sweet and playful. Those humans who exercise would really make a good fit for her. Farah is about two years old and has some Dalmatian background which gives her that snowy white coat with black detailing - very attractive. She's a medium sized dog but with a big personality.



Keep in mind that Farah has been checked out by the vet, has been wormed and given her shots and the adoption fee includes that as well as sterilization and even a micro chip that's been inserted under her skin for identification. You may see Farah and the other pets up for adoption at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Website: www.BonaireAnimalShelter.com.

The Shelter did it again last weekend with their Flea Market and Book Sale (photo below) at the Shelter itself on Saturday, October 4. Although there were fewer customers this time the profits were \$1,500! Reports were that a lot of furniture was sold (as well as books, clothing, household items, children's toys, etc.) So thank you, valuable volunteers and staff and customers who made this event a success.



As prices go up all over Bonaire, the Shelter's Pakus di Pruga (Flea Market) that is open every Saturday has become more and more popular. There is obviously a need on the island that is being filled by this little shop run by volunteers to benefit the Animal Shelter. In fact the place is just bursting with items - furniture, clothing, household items, garden items, children's furniture, clothes and toys and more - lots of cheap stuff! And if you have things to get rid of, let them know 717-4989. They can even arrange pick up if it's something like furniture.

Pakus di Pruga on Kaya Libertador Simon Boliver, across the street from Brandaris Café and Jong Bonaire, is open every Saturday from 8 am to 5 pm. There's plenty of free parking too.

Something to look forward to: The Animal Shelter's Annual Art Auction will be on Saturday, December 3, at Sense. It's always a fun evening and all the proceeds go to help keeping Bonaire's Animal Shelter open for unwanted cats and dogs. So you can mark your calendar now. ■ Laura DeSalvo

BonQuiz Answer



Q) Q) How did this boulder get there? There are several theories.

A) A Tsunami tossed it on land, or it rolled from the ridge. It's near the Spelonk lighthouse on the island's northeast coast.

Question on page 11

You Ring-We Bring

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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

OCTOBER SKY TREATS

October has lots of activity for watchers in the Sky Park. The two brightest planets in the solar system are coming into view. **Jupiter** starts the show off with its arrival in the east in October not long after sunset. The largest of the gas giant planets will rise a bit earlier each night in the constellation **Aries** until it reaches opposition on **October 28**, rising as the **Sun** sets and gliding with the stars from one end of the sky to the other until sunrise. Jupiter will shine at its maximum possible brightness of magnitude -2.9, easily more brilliant than any surrounding stars, including the twinkling **Capella** to the planet's north.

Turning even a small telescope on Jupiter will reveal the largest members of the great satellite system that circles the planet. The four largest moons, called the **Galilean satellites**, are easily spotted as small points of light that lie in a plane close to the planet. The positions of the satellites change from night to night, and sometimes the moons are hidden in front of or behind Jupiter. Lucky observers might even get to see the shadow of a moon darken the light cloud tops of the planet. A close look at the clouds of Jupiter should also unveil darker stripes across the atmosphere called **belts**. Despite the fame of the **Great Red Spot**, it is neither very red nor easy for backyard observers to see, but it's still worth a search.

Venus is back and starts to shine low in the western sky during October. Shining brilliantly at a magnitude of -3.9, Venus will be the brightest celestial object in this part of the sky, making it easy to spot. Venus sets about 30 minutes after the Sun in early October, and will be above the western horizon a full hour after the Sun sets by the end of the month.

Mars rises about 1 am in the eastern sky for early-morning sky watchers. Just before morning twilight begins, find the red planet shining at a dimmer magnitude of +1.3., Mars will be in the **Beehive Open Cluster**. Using binoculars, you will see Mars among the many stars of this open cluster.



On **October 12** there will be a **Full Moon**. The Moon will be directly opposite the **Earth** from the Sun and will be fully illuminated as seen from Earth. This phase occurs at 06:06 Sky Park time. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the **Full Hunters Moon** because at this time of year the leaves are falling and the game is fat and ready to hunt. This will also be the smallest full moon of the year because it will be near **apogee**, its farthest point from the Earth.

On **October 16** the newly discovered comet **Elinin** will make its closest approach to the Earth. The comet was discovered on December 10, 2010, by Russian amateur astronomer Leonid Elenin. It is estimated that the comet will reach 6th magnitude as it makes its closest approach. This will make it just barely visible to the naked eye. With a good pair of binoculars and a little determination, you may be able to get a good look at this new comet during mid October.

Finally on **October 21 and 22** look for the **Orionid Meteor Shower**. The Orionids is an average shower, producing about 20 meteors per hour at their peak. This shower usually peaks on the 21st, but it is highly irregular. A good show could be experienced on any morning from October 20 - 24, and some meteors may be seen any time from October 17 - 25. The nearly last quarter moon may hide some of the faintest meteors this year. Best viewing will be to the east after midnight. Be sure to find a dark location far from lights. ■ *Kelly Witt*



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
October 2011

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Discover opportunities based on the individuals you mingle with this month. You might be overly emotional when dealing with your partner. You may be emotional if you allow your lover to take advantage of your good nature. Watch for empty promises that may give you false hope. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) A change of attitude has probably disrupted your home environment. Your mind will be wandering to exotic destinations. The only thing you'll accomplish is a bad reputation. Partnerships could be tense. Don't push your luck. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You can gain approval, get kudos, and ask for help if you put a little heart into your speech or request. Your mate may not have been honest with you. Your diplomatic approach and rather outgoing nature will enhance your reputation and bring you the support you need. You may find out that someone has not been completely honest with you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Minor accidents could cause trauma and major setbacks. If you put your energy into physical outlets you will avoid confrontations. Don't lend to people who have given you negative vibes. You will meet potential new mates through business. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You need time to put your house in order and sort out what you are going to do about your personal direction. You'll look guilty if you don't lay your cards on the table. Real estate investments will be extremely profitable in the long run. Financial gains can be made through wise investments. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Try not to let your emotions interfere with the completion of your work. Your interests could lead you down avenues you never realized existed. Don't be too eager to start any

debates. It might be time to pick up the slack and do your share. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Discord may arise with someone you're close to. Avoid being intimately involved with clients or colleagues. You have two choices; Get out on your own, or bend to your mate's whims. You will meet potential new mates through business. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) This day was meant for love. Make creative changes to your residence. You can make alterations to your appearance that everyone will admire. Emotionally you won't see things accurately. If you haven't planned a vacation, then at least try to get away for the weekend. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Only bite off what you can chew. You could be emotional if you didn't take care of problems with loved ones. Listen to the problems of others and offer suggestions where possible. Your partner will blow situations out of proportion. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Unexpected changes in friendships could occur. Outbursts of passion may cause arguments with your mate. Be sure not to burn any bridges. Come to your own conclusions rather than taking the word of someone else. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Travel could include delays and other minor problems. Hold your temper and refrain from doing anything that might cause injury. Lack of funds may add stress to your already uncertain situation. Emotional upset at work will set you back. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Things are looking up. Jealousy may get in the way of a good relationship. Plan to get out and do a bit of travel. Control your anger. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday. ■

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Franz Liszt Tribute by Pianist Jura Margulis

Internationally recognized pianist Jura Margulis performed a tribute to famed Hungarian composer Franz Liszt before an enthralled audience in Plaza Resort's Cacique Hall, Sunday evening, October 2. The concert was organized by the Classical Music Board Bonaire.

Before taking his seat at the Bonaire Piano Foundation's Yamaha Concert grand, Margulis explained that 2011 is the bicentennial year of Liszt's birth, and it was Liszt who "invented" the type of solo recital he was about to perform. "Before Franz Liszt," Margulis said, "pianists played from score, but Liszt's music is really not possible to play this way. There is far too much going on. Thereafter, recitals were expected to be played from memory."

Margulis went on to point out that it was Liszt who pioneered the creation of "songs" transformed as piano compositions and who "forced" changes in the design and construction of the grand piano to accommodate the strength of those compositions.



Margulis began his performance with several of Liszt's shorter compositions, beginning with the highly recognizable *Consolation No. 3 in D flat major*. This was followed by *Polonaise No. 2 in E major*, representing a genre essentially invented by Liszt – robust and demanding of both pianist and piano, with dramatic stanzas, contrasted by turns with romantic interludes, drifting even to

the whimsical, then again offset with heroic and martial themes. Next came *Petrarch's Sonnet 104 "Pace non trovo,"* with melodic and romantic themes which obviously captivated the audience.

Lastly and perhaps most powerfully before the pause, Margulis performed the *Mephisto Valse*, based on the Faust legend and perhaps the composer's

most famous waltz. "Mephisto" enters boldly with the first stanza, pitting ruthless, diabolical elements against chaste naiveté while managing to be beguiling, thrilling, terrifying and heart breaking all at once. It has been said that, "This is not a waltz at all, but a seduction!" Margulis mastered this with all subtle and not-so-subtle changes in mood and tempo for which he is famous, bringing the legend literally into the hall.

Maestro Margulis concluded his program with Liszt's *Sonata in B minor*, one of the most famous, not to mention most difficult and demanding, sonata pieces of all time – a full half-hour performance in one movement with four motifs. It was a virtuoso performance of exceeding skill, concentration and subtlety. Here was an evening of Franz Liszt, performed by a true master, which transcended what anyone could possibly have imagined possible on a dusty, little, far flung island struggling to have even its most basic infrastructure in order.

Born in St. Petersburg, Russia,

Jura Margulis was trained in Germany and Italy, then in the US at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. Margulis currently lives and works in America where he is Distinguished Professor of Music at the Fulbright College of the University of Arkansas. He performs throughout the world – in New York, Los Angeles, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Barcelona, Sapporo and Bangkok, among other venues. His talent has been recognized with several international awards in Italy and Ireland and with the Pro Europa Prize of the Europe Foundation for Culture.

Classical Music Board Bonaire's next concert presentation will feature operatic selections performed by alto Nicole van Eer and pianist Armond Simon at Cacique Hall on Saturday, November 19, 2011.

Concert tickets will be available in a few weeks. Mark this event on your calendar. Reserve at the Classical Music Board Bonaire web site (www.classicalmusicbonaire.com). Cost \$20 each (\$25 at the door). ■ Bob Gilmour