

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** Nov. 25-Dec. 9, 2011, Year 18, Issue 23  
**The REPORTER**  
*Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly*

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Take the Top Lunch  
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**Career & Study Market- 2011**  
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Julius Melaan, Head of the Dutch Caribbean Fire Brigade (Brandweer) Education Dept. with Kendra Domacassé and Jenaya Melaan trying on fire fighter coats-at the Career and Study Market



**Y**ou won't get pennies in change at Warehouse Bonaire or More For Less Supermarkets (two Bonaire Reporter advertisers) unless you ask for them. A three-month-long experiment, started two weeks ago and sanctioned by the government, is underway to see if rounding cash transactions to the nearest five cents is a good idea. The use of pennies was said to be expensive, both for shops and banks.



The Dutch National Bank (DNB), the agency responsible for the efficiency of the transfer of payments on Bonaire, will have a special study to review both computerized payments and cash payments.

All prices in the shops will still be given in dollars and cents. Only if the customer pays cash at the register will the total be rounded off. **The rule is as follows:** 0 remains 0; 1 & 2 become 0; 3 & 4 become 5; 5 remains 5; 6 & 7 become 5 and 8 & 9 become 10. A sticker at the register will explain the deal. Payments with debit and credit cards and checks still use cents. If a cash customer insists on the return amount to a penny, the cashier will comply.

► **A huge new supermarket is set to open in Bonaire on November 24.** But it won't be carrying the famous Dutch brand name, **Albert Heijn**, as expected. It will carry the name of the owner, **Gerard van der Tweel**. The supermarket entrepreneur is also the owner of an Albert Heijn supermarket on Curacao and four AH supermarkets in The Netherlands as well as two Gall & Gall (liquor) stores and 18 businesses in the hotel and catering industry.

**Unsupported speculation** is that Albert Heijn is afraid the new Bonaire supermarket cannot meet their (high) standards because of the shipping problem and low population on the island.

Perhaps not so coincidentally, on November 29 and 30, van der Tweel is sponsoring a "Jubilee Congress" titled "Doing Business in a New Kingdom of the Netherlands" at the most posh hotel in **The Hague, the Hotel Des Indes**, to present the opportunities there are for entrepreneurs in the region.

► **On November 11 Bonaire's notorious Fiji-Zambezi cases entered their third year.** During all that time four men have been living under threat of judicial punishment for crimes prosecutors are having difficulty defining well enough to go before a judge. The two Fiji

case suspects, **Albert de Groof** and **Willem van Wijngaarden**, had their case adjourned until March 2012 because more witnesses are to be heard. This case, among other things is concerned with gold smuggling.

The Fiji case is concurrent with the still pending Zambezi case. In Zambezi Bonaire's UPB-politicians **Ramonsito Booi** and **Burney Elhage** are suspected of corruption in government service. There were raids that gathered files, documents and computer media in September 2009.

Earlier this year the case was dismissed. A public group, The Committee for Good Government (*Bon Governashon*) petitioned that it be reopened in February 2012 in the judge's chambers. Booi and Elhage are mentioned in the Fiji case. After spending significant time behind bars, De Groof and van Wijngaarden have been released. De Groof is now in The Netherlands and he may not leave that country without permission. Van Wijngaarden lives on Bonaire.

Court observers are concerned that the duration of the investigation of the unproven charges against the defendants is an injustice. If they are innocent the persistent cloud of suspicion is grievously disrupting their lives. If they are guilty the public interest is not being protected in a timely way. According to the present court calendar the trial cannot even begin until June 2012.

► **A proposal to hire a translator** for a member of Bonaire's Island Council has caught the attention of a Member of the Dutch Parliament.



Rafael Santana

He was alerted by reports in the media that Bonaire's governing UPB party wants to hire the services of a Spanish translator for **Council Member Rafael Santana**, who is their coalition partner.

The Council wants to hire a translator because Santana, who was born in the Dominican Republic, doesn't comprehend Dutch sufficiently to take part in meetings and to read documents.

Bonaire's largest opposition party PDB has protested against the plans to hire a translator, also because the cost would be between \$50,000 and \$70,000 per year, **which is significantly more than the salary of an island councilman.**

► Within five years Bonaire will have an additional 500 new housing units for people with low incomes. Commissioners James

Kroon and Silvana Serfilia laid the first stone for building the first 101 homes.

**"Fundashon Cas Boneriano" (FCB) will build the first new homes on Kaminda Nieuw Amsterdam.**

According to Kroon, the "project is now possible thanks to the direct ties with The Netherlands. With the help of Dutch financing we can now make the community's dream come true."

All 500 new homes should be completed in five years. The initial 101 houses will be built in phases: 68 in the first phase, followed by 18 units in the second, and the remainder in the last phases.

► **Dutch Minister van Bijsterveldt of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) will make available \$1.3 million to improve the salaries of teachers in the Caribbean Netherlands in the coming years.**



van Bijsterveldt

Salary levels of teachers per island differ greatly. Starting salaries of teachers are lower than comparable civil servants working for the RCN. Much of the money is earmarked to raise starting salaries and accelerate raises.

Van Bijsterveldt proposed that teachers' working hours (*normjaartaak*) be set at 1,659 hours per year. Of this, 10% of the working hours are made available for the continuing education of teachers. The increases are to start in 2011 if the local government approves.

**Efforts by schools to recruit teachers in The Netherlands have been until now relatively unsuccessful** because working conditions between the European Netherlands and the Caribbean Netherlands are not related. For one thing teachers from the European Netherlands who transfer temporarily to the Caribbean area to work lose some pension credit.

► Based on the results of the measurements carried out recently by an expert of the Oesterbaai agency, **there is no asbestos in the air of the classrooms of the Scholengemeenschap High School (SGB).** The samples were tested in a laboratory in The Netherlands that specializes in asbestos. This study has shown that there is absolutely no asbestos in the air of the classrooms. Oesterbaai is the largest research agency in The Netherlands specializing in the field of asbestos.

Following reports that pieces of roofing layers of the SGB contained asbestos were found on

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*Flotsam and Jetsam* (Continued from page 2) October 17 and 18, 2011, an expert from the Oesterbaai agency was contracted to analyze the situation at the school. The pieces of roofing layers containing asbestos found at the SGB appeared to be of the less dangerous type (called 'hechtgebonden' asbestos). These have been removed and there is no immediate danger.

► To take advantage of the supposed auspicious date, on 11/11/11 **there were nine weddings held on Bonaire.** But any time is great to wed on Bonaire. If you need one organized try Suze's Weddings Bonaire ([www.suzesweddingsbonaire.com](http://www.suzesweddingsbonaire.com)) and for wedding photos hire ScubaVision ([info@scubavision.info](mailto:info@scubavision.info))

► **Don't miss the season's first Taste Of Bonaire on November 25.** Chicken, fish, stews, cactus soup, Surinam, Middle East, showarma, Dutch specialties, Chinese, Indian.....are you still hungry? Satisfy your sweet tooth with local deserts and brownies with ice cream....all for just \$3 or \$5 a plate.

**Taste of Bonaire** has become a tradition and has been held a few times a year for over a decade. It is your chance to sample local fare, absorb Bonaire's culture and meet old friends and make new ones from here, there and so many places it boggles the mind and really puts your knowledge of world geography to the test!

Be sure to join for a welcome drink (thanks to Kirk at Sunset Restaurant at Den Laman) starting at 6 pm in Wilhelmina Park on the waterfront in Playa. Just follow the wonderful aromas and the great music! Come hungry! -M. Gaynor

► **On December 10 the Bonaire Animal Shelter will hold its Annual Shelter Din-**



Shimaruku tree at dawn

► **Bonaire's Shimaruku cherries,** perhaps the most delicious and nutritious fruit on earth, are filling many wild trees. Get some if you can. One cherry has as much vitamin C as a glass of orange juice. They come at a price though. When the Shimarukus are in bloom the *limbi-limbis* (non-biting annoying gnats) flourish.

**ner and Auction at Sense restaurant.** Looking for a fun evening and an opportunity to help the Shelter? You can have a sneak peak on the shelter website and bid. ([www.BonaireAnimalShelter.com](http://www.BonaireAnimalShelter.com)).

**Dinner is from 6 pm to 8:30 pm, the Auction starts at 8:30 pm. Tickets for the dinner are available at the Shelter. If you can't join the dinner, please come to the auction beginning at 8:30. Admission is free.**

All proceeds will go to the care of the dogs and cats in the Animal Shelter Bonaire. For more information: E-mail or call 717-4989. Thank you to all of the donating artists, sponsors, guests and volunteers who help to make the Auction and Dinner of the Animal Shelter a success. And very special thanks to: Sense Bonaire and Jacobs Architecten.

► **The results of a recent poll commissioned by the RCN** sent disturbing signals about the satisfaction of Bonaire's people to the 10/10/10 integration of the island and its sister islands of Saba and Statia into The Netherlands. In a statement to the press, Kingdom Relations Minister Donner said, "The number of persons who gave a negative response about equals the group that had a positive view. More importantly, the majority of the people have faith in future improvements.

The Minister acknowledged that there were problems in the start-up of the new constitutional status of the island and that there was room for improvement.

Communications was especially a problem because not even a third of the people polled were aware of personnel and services offered by the RCN or the name of its leader. (table right)

Medical care, one of the improvements that was supposed to be improved by integration, had a reasonably dismal perception with 38% of the people satisfied versus 36% dissatisfied. When asked if health care is better or worse than before 10/10/10, 36% answered that it has improved vs. 37% that the care has declined. Other areas like police protection, education, household income and immigration services do not even approach a 50% approval. However, it appears that the people do feel things will improve ever so slightly. All of the categories below 50% rise as high 60%.



Rijkdienst  
Caribisch Nederland

Department	Sufficient	Inadequate
Medical	26%	54%
Education	13%	57%
Taxes	27%	49%
Immigration	27%	42%

► **Bonaire's spiritual author Evelinede Bruyn has recently come out with a new book, "The Book Of Lillith."** For more information: <http://redroom.com/member/eveline-de-bruyn>

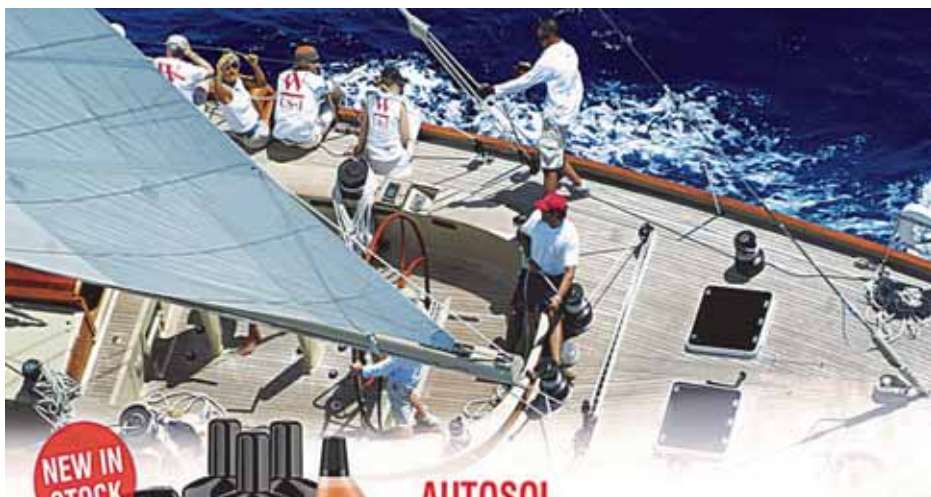
► **Welcome new advertisers, artist Henk Roozendaal, Gaia Productions graphics and Le Garage.** Please patronize them and say, "The Reporter sent me."

► **Every Saturday at 11 am tune in to Radio Limpi** on any of Bonaire's four radio stations, Bon FM, Radio Energia, Voz di Bonaire or Radio Digital to listen to the

show designed to get Bonaire's youngsters aware of environmental actions, like recycling, that they can do. It's new and fun. The program is an initiative of Foundation Bon Kausa.

► **Don't forget Thanksgiving Dinner at Rum Runners!**

► **Businessmen- Honor your clients during the holiday season with a Thank You advertisement in The Reporter.** 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... 1938 Anna-Luisa 'Wicha' Bomba-Emerenciana

*She sits very straight up. Her eyes are long, shiny slivers behind her glasses, and she's witty and sharp and almost 95 years old: Anna-Luisa 'Wicha' Bomba from Tera Kora.*

"I was born on Curacao, November 30, 1916. My mother, Germina Emerenciana, was from Bonaire and my father was from Curacao. Before she went to Curacao my mother worked at the salinas in the hot sun, in bare feet, collecting salt in the old wooden wheelbarrows.

My mother and father had three children: two girls and a boy. When I was little we came to Bonaire once a year in December to visit the family. My father worked for Shell Curacao as a gatekeeper and my mother was a housewife. After I went to elementary school I stayed at home to look after my siblings. I was taught how to sew and it became a hobby of mine; I used to make all my own clothes. I stayed at home with my mother

until I got married at the age of 22. I'd met Johannes Bomba in the neighborhood where I lived; he was older than I. He was from Bonaire and he was working for Shell. After we married I went to Bonaire by myself and my husband stayed on Curacao. Once a year he came home.

We had nine children, and the eldest is now 70. All of them were born at home in Tera Kora. I have seven boys and two girls. Four are living in Holland, one on Curacao and the others on Bonaire.

My husband was a sailor. He worked for different shipping lines and later on he became an engine driver. He retired early. We were poor, but we were happy and content. To make some extra money I would sell eggs and lottery tickets.

Behind the house, not far away, there was a well where I went to get water. We would fold a piece of cloth into a strong little roll and put it on our heads. We carried the

big cans with the water on top of it. You needed to have good balance because most of the time you were carrying things in your hands as well. To cook we would collect dry twigs and branches. We'd put three big stones in the soil, the twigs in the middle and the cooking pot on top.

In those days food tasted different! We ate fish, goat meat, pork and chicken – everything from Bonaire. Not far from here we also had a kunuku where we grew beans, maishi, tomatoes, cucumber, jambo, pumpkins, purslane. Nothing came from a freezer where it had been kept for years. It came fresh from the land! If we had to preserve the meat we would put it in salt from the salinas. As we didn't have electricity we used kerosene lamps. At night we would sit together cozy and comfy and tell stories to the children. Sometimes we would tell them about the spirits that were always roaming around, like the



Anna-Luisa 'Wicha' Bomba-Emerenciana

man with the lantern or the chain that would slam on the floor... Nowadays, because of the electric lights and the street lights there aren't that many spirits anymore. These days we ourselves are the ghosts, and there are thieves. By 8 o'clock in the evening we would all go to sleep and we woke up when the roosters told us so. We didn't have a clock but we always knew what time it was.

I've been living in this house for 64 years. We have a rain cistern with the date when it was built and we also had a well drilled. Before, we used to drink the water from the well, just like that, without boiling it, and it was good and healthy. Not anymore! It's all

contaminated, too many cesspools and everything is connected.

I love plants and I know about medicine you make from plants: medicine for when you have a cold, a headache or a bad cough and other things also. I learned it from my grandmother, Eloisa Emerenciana. She knew a lot. She would make a compress when you had a pain in your stomach. She knew what to do when you had a big scare and when you felt choked. Then she would smoke a cigar and talk to the spirits. Many, many people and children would come to her. Another aunt of mine also knew how to do it. My grandmother's mother was Inees Domam-

(Continued on page 5)

**“Politics killed Bonaire; the political parties never managed to cooperate... They have been fighting against each other instead of fighting together for the island.”**

			
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*On the Island Since* (continued from page 4)  
 cassé from Rincon. She was a slave. She carried the stones which built the Passan-gran. I never knew her.

Eloisa's father had a kunuku, 'Kunuku Parasasa,' where he planted maishi. It was a good harvest and he sold it for a lot of money. Then he paid for Inees' freedom so that Eloisa (my grandmother) would be born free. That's how it happened. Eloisa told me everything; she was born in the house right across from here.

My mother had a sister, Tante Petrona, who was also famous. She worked for many years at the old pier where she unloaded the ships, carrying heavy bags of sand and cement and rocks. She was skinny but very strong and she worked just like a man and that's why she was so well-known because not many Bonairean women would do such a thing! Ha! Awel, that was then...

My husband passed away October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1986, and nowadays I live with my son Stanley who is 62. My son Gibi lives next door and my son Errelt lives across. I do the cooking and Stanley takes cares of the rest – he does everything. He also waters the plants, but I talk to them! My children come to see me all the time, but I do have my own schedule: Monday is my day off and I stay at home. On Tuesday I go to Ka'i Mimina, where I also have lunch. Wednesdays I go to Nikiboko with the group of people who don't see well or who are blind. I see everything perfectly clear, but that doesn't make a difference. We go shopping, we buy fish at Nachi's in Nort di Saliña or we drive around – just to do something. On Thursday I have my day off and on Friday I go to Ka'i Mimina again.

During the weekends I'm home most of the time, but I like to go out too. I go to the casino to play the machines," she laughs. "None of my children ever went there... *nunca!* never! When I get the chance I like to go dancing – I love rancheras and meringue - every type of music! My father would play the *tambu*, the percussion, and my husband played the accordion. One shouldn't stay put in a chair all day! You have to move!"

*Her sharp eyes flicker with lust for life. She's a grand lady with an original mind and definitely her own person. Her thick hair is white, but not entirely. It still has some real black streaks and it's long, braided and pinned up. "I've never, ever straightened my hair," she says. "It ruins your hair completely!"*

Yes, I like to go out. When there's something going on I like to be there. I also read all the newspapers, listen to the radio and watch television, my *novelas* (soap operas) and *Caso Cerrado* and 'Laura'. I am interested in everything, but you know what? I don't like politics! Bonaire has changed; it's not good anymore – it is different... too much corruption. Politics killed Bonaire; the political parties never managed to cooperate, there has never been any unity. They have been fighting against each other instead of fighting together for the island. Each one wants to be the boss, the best... Bonaire has never been like that: all this



Senora Anna-Luisa Bomba and two of her sons, Gibi and Errelt

fighting, people only thinking about themselves, their friends and their families and their own pockets. You know how I see them? The party is the circus and the party leader is the *payaso* – the clown..."

*Her sons laugh. "She has a sharp tongue! She's been on 'Herensia' three times and every time Bòi Antoin sees her he wants to do an interview!" 'Wicha' laughs. "I've got good kids, but when they are dreaming, they're bad boys! Ay, all times were good times and bad times."*

I've traveled a lot. I went to Holland and on cruises to Panama, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and Colombia. I love to travel and I've been everywhere but... never on Klein

Bonaire! It scares me how to get there!

Well, I am still young. On November 30 I will be 59 and my whole family is going to throw me a party and everybody will come from Holland and Curacao and next year I will get my pension and I will start all over again!!! *Ay si, mi ta kontentu; mi a keiru bon!* (Oh yeah, I am content – It has been a good walk.)" ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



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# A Place For Pregnant Teens & Teen Moms

'KAS PA HOBEN KU FUTURO' – HOME FOR YOUNGSTERS WITH A FUTURE

Tamara Richards explains "The idea first came from our hearts, because we feel every child has a right to a good future. Then we established a foundation, 'Rosa di Sharon,' and together with AMFO, we set up a home on Bonaire for pregnant teenage moms so the girls didn't have to go to Curacao anymore and could stay close to their school and family. AMFO (Antillean Foundation for Financial Cooperation) became our sponsor and in September 2010 three pregnant girls and two young mothers with babies were admitted to the home which we named 'Kas pa hoben ku Futuro' – A home for youngsters with a future.

AMFO also wanted us to give walk-in help to 25 other teenage moms and pregnant girls. As well they gave us the assignment of giving sexual education to all the students of the first and second grades at SGB high school, with the purpose of changing the students' behavior. We wanted the students to become aware of the consequences of their early sexual behavior, like sexually transmitted diseases, babies and abortions. We also asked them and made them think about why they should have sex at such an early age. We gave them the message that it was okay to wait, and it was very well received by the teenagers.

Well, we started out with AMFO, but then the Antilles ended and AMFO was no longer financing projects on Bonaire and the Youth and Family Department of the Ministry of Public Health, Welfare and Sports took over the financing.

Youth and Family came with different demands and now we're more focused on what goes on here at the home. The moms who are living here can stay with us until they are 21. But... neither Youth and Family nor we want the girls to stay here for a long period of time. Our goal is to get them back into their own family and we guide them in that process. To us it is very important that girls stay in touch with their mother, their father and their grandparents and also with the father of their child who has his responsibilities as well, emotionally and financially.

Youth and Family is the one who decides who is going to be admitted to the home. If the girl can't stay here she will either go to Holland or to GOG (an approved school) in Curacao. This is an open home, but all the girls we get here somehow have gotten into trouble with the law and all of them are under the state's supervision.

We are preparing the teenagers who are somewhat older to become completely independent so they won't have to rely on the father of their child or a new partner. Because they are here they have a good chance to make it at school, to finish their education and to see the benefits of it. We want them to have all the opportunities to make a good life.

When we went with Youth and Family in August 2011, it was a big change because now the home is also open for teenage girls (who are not pregnant or a mom) with all different kind of problems who can't stay at home—for a brief or longer period. We are talking about girls of the age of 14 and up. As for the younger kids there is nothing on the island... so far. It's sad, but we're willing to build another home. We, my husband



Ramiro and Tamara Richards in the living room of 'Kas pa hoben ku futuro'.

Ramiro and I, feel it's better to start small and if the outcome is positive then there's room to expand.

Because we are well known in the community because of our church, 'Baranka di Restorashon,' and because people know we've opened this home, there are many girls who come to us with their problems. We will always try to help them or refer them, but it's not up to us to decide if they can come and live here.

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, the girls are guided, fed and housed by a team of professionals. We have four certified leaders working here who all studied social pedagogic work. Sharina Loozen, the dietician, has been coming to the house to teach the girls about nutrition, not only for themselves but also for their babies. We have a great network of volunteers and Emmy Schermer is not only our 'madrina' but also a professional remedial educator who is guiding the girls. And if that's not sufficient we can always fall back on a psychologist appointed by Youth and Family. We're also constantly in touch with the family guardianship, the Guardianship Board, the vice squad and the care team of SGB high school and we're checked by the inspection team to see if what we're doing is safe, well-considered and balanced.

At the moment we have five teenagers, two babies and a toddler. During the week the girls go to school and their children go to the crèche. We have a weekly program with creativity, sports, outings, cooking, spirituality – we are a Christian home – and classes about sexuality, how to raise your children, family, relationships and friendships, communication and budget. We want to empower them so they can take care of themselves once they are on their own feet.

It's very intense, also for the girls, but it's going well! The thing we would love to have is a good follow up once the girls leave this home. It could be a foster family or their own family – if it is safe to go back – or they could go and live independently, but...Bonaire's not ready for that, because for a school-going person it's financially almost impossible to rent a place. I understand that they are busy on Bonaire, thinking of setting up housing for people to live independently under guidance. That would be the ideal situation for the girls who are ready to leave this home.

The moms we have here are responsible for everything for their baby. And I must say, they are wonderful mothers. They are

absolute tops! And the teenagers who live here and don't have a baby are always willing to help the moms out. They're working well together. It's a social group with the relationships constantly changing, because girls come and go, babies get older and mothers are growing up as well. Sometimes the house is shaking really badly, but eventually it all gets quiet again.

There are way more girls waiting than possibilities to house them. A setting like this is difficult for a teenager. A foster home would be more personal and better in many situations and that's what Youth and Family is also thinking, but in reality it's not easy to find a foster home for a problem teenage mom and her baby. But... Youth and Family is always looking for foster homes!

What we want is to change the mentality in which many children grow up: 'I am nobody' – 'I am nothing' – 'I have no possibilities'. We want to break a pattern that causes many girls to end up at the edge of our society, and by guiding them in a spiritual way as well they learn they are valuable and accepted and it also helps them to find their identity.

In the end it all comes down to love, acceptance and structure. It's not a job and everyone who works here feels the same about it. We're planting a seed and we're empowering the girls to take their lives and the lives of their children into their own hands and make sure they have a good future." ■ *Story & photo by*

Greta Kooistra

## Lunch Explosion

There has been a big increase in the number of restaurants open for lunch in "downtown" Kralendijk (from the Harbour Village Marina to Divi Flamingo Resort).

And we hear that approvals for even more will soon be given. We've listed all we could think in alphabetical order below. Which are your favorites? **Pick one** restaurant and send the form to *The Reporter* at PO Box 407, Postkantoor Playa, or go online to *The Bonaire Reporter* website,

[www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com) or **Facebook**,

We will use the results to begin **Bonaire's Top Places**, a new feature of *The Reporter*. ■ G.D.

### Downtown Lunch Spots Check 1

Bistro di Paris  
Bon Appetite  
Boudoir  
Brandaris Café  
Capriccio's  
City Café  
Donna & Giorgio's  
Effie's Deli Delight  
El Mundo  
Eli Deli (new)  
Exito Bakery  
It Rains Fishes  
KFC  
Mondrian  
Norca's Deli Café  
Papagayo  
Patagonia  
Plazita Limena  
Rumba Café  
Spanhoek  
Subway  
Zee Zicht

Write In

If you can think of others please email [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com). Complete the form on line at [www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com) or on The Reporter's Facebook page

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# Body Talk

## SLAUGHTERING A HEALTH FOOD SACRED COW

For decades now many people believe the health food industry propaganda about yogurt. Are you one of them? If you are a regular yogurt eater and you believe in its goodness, you need to read the following. I personally have never been able to understand the so-called health benefits of yogurt (being a dairy product), but I will leave it with you to decide whether it is just another brilliant "health food scam."

Very few people would think of eating ice cream for breakfast, yet this sugar laden dairy dessert (with a carbohydrate value of 43 in 1 container of low fat fruit yogurt) is far worse than eating ice cream for breakfast. At least the ice cream will give you a little saturated fat to partly balance the gooey gobs of sugar it contains!

And if you think switching to unsweetened yogurt for the *Lactobacillus acidophilus* is better, think again. Back in the 70s and early 80s, *L. acidophilus* was the first pro-biotic - easy and inexpensive to produce commercially, and it yielded some of the benefits its proponents claimed.

It was not long before the inadequacies of *L. acidophilus* became apparent, but by that time the bandwagon was rolling at high speed, as the health food faithful were gobbling up yogurt by the truckload, and every supplement peddler had an acidophilus product on the market!

Contrary to popular belief, *L. acidophilus* is NOT a significant part of the normal intestinal flora of an adult human. It is significant, but still a rather small part of the normal intestinal flora of an infant - but by age 2 should be almost entirely absent. And who wants lactic acid, anyway? Lactic acid is toxic. Many people eating yogurt will have their imbalances exacerbated by the absorbed lactic acid created by *L. acidophilus* - and those harmful effects are from l-lactic acid. *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, in some people more than others, also produces d-lactic

acid, which is extremely toxic. It is one of the nastiest intestinal-derived toxins in terms of demand placed on both the liver and the immune system.

75% of your immune system is in the mucosa of your GI tract! The mucosal lining of the mouth, throat, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, and colon is your first line of defense! So few people don't realize that ailments like chronic fatigue, fibromyalgia, chronic yeast/fungal infections, chronic constipation, asthma, chronic reoccurring sinus congestion and fungal infections of the skin are all linked to your gut!

If you want to pick just one bacterial pro-biotic to do everything you ever dreamed a bacterial pro-biotic could possibly do, then choose *Lactobacillus reuteri*! I bet not many of you have ever heard of this one! *L. reuteri* is one of a limited number of indigenous lactobacillus species occurring naturally in the human intestine.

Many of you, in righteous indignation, will not believe what you've just read. After all, you have been eating yogurt for many years, and you're fine! For those skeptics, as usual, I say, do your homework! Google *L. reuteri* - to find out more. It is a shame though that you will probably never find it in a yogurt. ■

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.



22 MINUTES



Dear Editor:

Here is my story-

**8:40 Sunday morning.** I load my 2 dogs in my car to go for a walk at the east coast.

**8:53** My friend has just parked her car and her three dogs jump out to greet us.

**8:55** We discuss the presence of the yellow Cargill truck with ladder parked near

the bridge. We wonder why it's there with its motor running.

**8:57** the dogs run towards the bridge  
**8:58** the truck starts moving right when my two dogs have crossed the bridge. The other dogs are behind it.

**8:59** One of my dogs jumps to the side when the truck crosses the bridge. The other dogs are following the truck. Two are beside it. Two behind. The truck speeds up a little.

**9:00** the driver of the truck swerves sharply to the left. Deep down I feel there is something terribly wrong. We start running. The truck speeds away..

**9:01** on the road is my Ponky. My always happy, sweet Ponky who loves to chase cars but doesn't mean to hurt anybody.

**9:02** Ponky dies in my arms at the roadside

There is no doubt in my mind that the driver of the truck aimed to hit the dogs.

I wrote this so it will be remembered that there are people in this world who do not deserve to be loved and dogs that do.

For Ponky -- Marjolijn



## TASTE OF BONAIRE

November 25th 2011, Wilhelmina Park in the center of town 6-10 pm  
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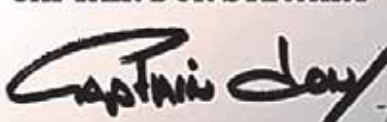
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## Enjoy Our Reef Fishes

## Let's Not Eat Them

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



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






Artwork by Dominique Serafini

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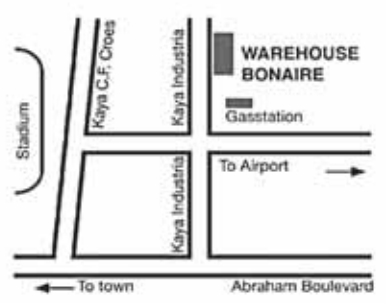




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# BONAIREAN VOICES

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE BUSINESSES ON BONAIRE

In our last article we told how some people are doing business on our island. Maybe you are walking around with a dream and don't know how to start. The *Centrum Kleinbedrijf Bonaire* (CKB-Small Business Center) can help you convert your idea into a business plan, which you need in order to apply for funding to start your business. Mr. Evo Cicilia (47), manager of SCKB (*Stichting Centrum Klein Bedrijf*) Foundation for small businesses, helped us understand the role of SCKB or CKB in the community.

Mr. Evo Cicilia explains: "On April 20<sup>th</sup> 1999, CKB was established to implement the SESNA (Small Enterprises Stimulation of the Netherlands Antilles) program. It was a joint venture between the private sector represented by AKIB, BONHATA and the Bankers Association and the Island Government. The SESNA Program was funded by the European Union and the Island Government. It was intended for the five islands in the former Netherlands Antilles to stimulate locals to start with their own small business. At the end of the SESNA program in 2007 the Central Government and the Island Government decided that it was necessary to continue with the activities of CKB and gave the funds available for the program. The governments of each island took responsibility for the continuity of the program.

The personnel of CKB consist of a manager, an office manager and two business advisors. We consider our biggest challenge is to stimulate our local people to start their own business. Our people are not business minded and the interest is very low. Even in the families who used to have businesses we can see that the second/new generation prefers to have a permanent job with a fixed salary at the end of the month and preferably with a good pension plan.

We are planning to create a new program to stimulate our Bonaireans to start their own businesses. Now with this new political structure, the Ministry of Economics, Agriculture and Innovation (EL&I) in Holland has made new options available in Holland as well as in the BES Islands. One of the programs is the "BMKB *rege-ling*" (*Borgstelling Midden en Klein Bedrijf* - (Guaranteed funds for Small and Medium Enterprises). This program has a guaranteed fund against which loans can be given to entrepreneurs by the commercial banks. The fund serves as collateral for the loans. Recently the banks received training regarding



Evo Cicilia

the procedures in applying for this program. This program is for the bigger businesses of more than \$50,000. For the smaller businesses, less than \$50,000, we have the arrangement of micro financing. At the moment we, CKB, the banks, Chamber of Commerce and Ministry of EL&I are still working on the right structure to implement the program. We are waiting to see if Holland can guarantee the loans for these businesses too, so it will be easier for those who want to start a small business to get a loan at the bank.

Our principal goal is to help those who want to start a small business. We help make a business plan, give support, training and workshops, advice and coaching. You can approach CKB with any questions you might have about doing business. If we cannot give you all the answers we will send you to the correct agency. If necessary CKB will do research based on your questions to give you the right answers.

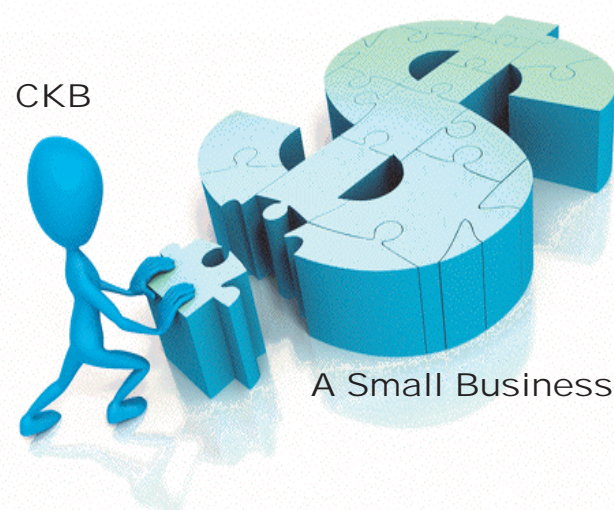
You have group of people who run a little business from their house, like, they sell things from their house or give a service like cleaning the yard, plumbing, handyman etc. - the informal sector. We targeted this group to motivate them to take that step and start their own business. In the beginning this started to take off, but because of the economic situation and the constitutional changes, there has been a complete slow down since 2010. We encouraged this group to start as part time entrepreneurs. But they need to take it seriously, pay attention to their products/services, keep their promises and give good service. When their business grows enough they can make the switch to full time entrepreneur.

We believe we have to start motivating our people, starting with our children in schools—to think about starting their own business as a possibility in their future - give them the necessary materials to work with and appropriate guidance. There can be programs at various levels - primary schools, secondary schools- but also programs to stimulate adults in starting their own business.

In Bonaire we have another point I always like to raise. That is that we do not have families with fortunes like there are in Curaçao—families that have been in business for centuries and whose descendants are still in business. Those families created a fortune over the years and those funds are being reinvested in new businesses. Here in Bonaire we don't have those families so the capital has to come from abroad or from the banks. Therefore a good business plan is needed to present to the bank so the local bank can help accomplish a dream.

Here at CKB there are three advisors who can give guidance in making up a business plan. We also want to encourage people starting a business to not just focus on Bonaire as a potential market. With today's technology you can reach the whole world with your product and services using the Internet. You just have to find the right product or service.

We have to change our mentality for doing business and focus not only on the local market but also on the market out there. The



world out there is also connected with Bonaire, so make use of it.

In the future CKB will be integrated into the KvK (*Kamer van Koophandel* - the Chamber of Commerce). Like on the other islands- Aruba and Curaçao- and in Holland the activities of CKB will be under KvK. After this has happened and everything is legally settled CKB will not exist anymore, only KvK. Of course by then everybody will be well informed of the changes."

In the last issue we wrote about the Rosalia family who had a vision. So try to visualize yourself having a business and accomplish your dream.

■ Story & photo by Siomara Albertus



### Instruction for Energy Medicine Coming again to Bonaire at Bonaire Basics Give the gift of healing to yourself or another!

**Dec. 17, 2011** a one day intensive course in **HEALING TOUCH** (8am - 7 pm)

**Healing Touch** is Energy based therapeutic approach to healing. You will learn 9 techniques of hands on healing that bring the energy system into balance and harmony to promote self-healing. This class is life changing and you will leave with skills for healing yourself and others. Healing Touch is taught internationally and you will receive a **Certificate of Completion** that is recognized throughout the world and 12 hours continuing education credits.

#### Healing Touch:

- Relieves pain anxiety and stress
- Promotes enhanced quality of life
- Strengthens mental outlooks and increases energy levels
- Addresses underlying causes of illness
- An International certification program
- Researched based



Instructor  
Susan DeSalvo-Reed

**Jan. 14, 2012** a one day intensive course in **ENERGETIC TOUCH**(8am-7 pm)

**Energetic Touch** is an 11-12 hour intensive course for experienced energy medicine practitioners. This is a fantastic continuing education class of instruction, concepts, and skills to further develop energy based therapies knowledge and practice. Strong dedication to personal growth encouraged. Certificate of completion given at end of class plus 12 continuing education credits. This is a deeply profound energy medicine class!

#### Energetic Touch:

- Intervention techniques for managing disease: Organ Clearing, Quick Body Balancing, & Heart Clearing.
- Children's Techniques
- Charka Repair work
- Supporting the Dying Process

This class is an advanced practice class in the energy medicine experience Familiarization with the chakra system strongly recommended.

**Fee: \$95.00 per class Both classes: \$180**

To register please email Susan at [blueskyz@idiom.com](mailto:blueskyz@idiom.com) or Bonaire Basics [annemiek@bonairebasics.com](mailto:annemiek@bonairebasics.com) or Tel:786-3341

Minimum of 5 students



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# Study & Career Market



Checking in the visitors: (l to r) Kjell Dron, Juan Obersi, Marie-Antoinette Keli, Daymison Martis, Iris Latier

Last Saturday at Jong Bonaire the 8th annual Study and Career Market (*beroepmarkt*) opened and **686 registered visitors came**—the most ever. There were **39 different exhibitors** ready to give information and demonstrations—universities and colleges from Holland, Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire, the Coast Guard, banks, the fire and police departments, NGO platform, insurance companies, phone companies, STINAPA, the high school, TCB and more. It was an opportunity for all the youngsters and their families to see what their future could be. How very fortunate that such a fair exists for young people to be able to see for themselves what a grand selection there is from which to choose.

Celia Fernandes Pedra, the founder of Stichting Ban Bonaire Bek, opened the fair, the 5<sup>th</sup> fair they have sponsored. ■ *Laura De-Salvo.*



Fundashon Mariadal put on a simulation of medical EMT staff dealing with a victim in a horrible car crash



Some of the NGO Platform Staff: Marienela Alberto, Elys Santaris, Annemarie Klone

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Bonaire Reporter- Nov. 25-Dec. 9, 2011

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# Top Performance Award For The Dive Inn

Bonaire/Kralendijk – Last week the Dive Inn, one of the Dive Friends of Bonaire locations, received an important recognition from SDI/TDI/ERDI.

Dive Inn is now a Five-Star Instructor Training Center, approved by Scuba Diving International and Technical Diving International. These two organizations named the Dive Inn as an International Training Top Performing Facility for the year 2011.

In the photograph, Chris Verstappen and his partner Astrid de Jager, stand in front of “their” Dive Inn (Dive Friends Bonaire) location. They feel at home at the Dive Inn. Chris and Astrid are very pleased with the award they just received.

Chris, who is said to have gills, explains. “The Dive Inn is a very old Bonairean dive location. In those days it was very beautiful and very popular. Nature was all around and parrots flew over all the time. Then times changed and it became a more or less quiet location. Some years ago Dive Friends Bonaire took over an important part of the organization and started building, improving and expanding. Now the Dive Inn is a comfortable and fully equipped location of Dive Friends of Bonaire with a lot of knowhow on board, a lot of serious dive gear and, of course, our own air compressor. We present a broad variety of dive courses for beginners to SDI and TDI dive instructors. We are very glad to be an official Five-Star Official Training Center



now. This clearly shows its efforts over the years have not been unnoticed by the international diving world!”

Chris and Astrid are privileged and happy persons. They live to dive and they dive to live. Then, again, the underwater world of the Caribbean Sea seduces Chris. He grabs and controls his private equipment and with some other underwater world admirers he disappears in the ever receptive sea... ■ *Jan Brouwer*

## HEALTH FAIR 2011

Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup>

9 AM - 1 PM

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## Parrot Watch Update



X-ray of the broken wing, The ellipse is centered on the break. It highlights the broken bone. The two white lines running down to the left are on either side of the bone - like railway tracks.

Sam Williams photo

No sooner had the last Lora news been sent to the press then it was out of date, old news and incomplete. Inconceivably yet another broken bird has joined the Echo flock. So rather than get back to news of Sid's development or Marvin's mischief we must share Nigel's tale.

### ANOTHER BROKEN LORA

It was sunny early morning on the island on Bonaire. Parrots flew from one degraded area of their habitat to another. Some even ventured into urban areas to find delicious fruits to fill their bellies with.

Nigel was one of these parrots and he was flying with Maggie, a wonderful parrot whom he adored. Nigel was just an average parrot, a little bit grumpy at times but really just normal. There was nothing that made him stand out from other birds in the flock. By contrast Maggie was intelligent and at times rambunctious.

Nigel often wished he had something special about him so he could seduce this lovely girl parrot. He wished he had Spanish flair or that he knew more about being a real man parrot so he could win her over. He was flying along thinking exactly this and then suddenly but slowly he woke up in pain, dazed and confused. His left wing hung limply and he was on the ground. He had no idea what had happened. It was very odd and he tried to make sense of it. The last thing he could remember was flying with Maggie. "Oh no, where's Maggie?" he thought. The girl he adored was nowhere. Had he flown into a telegraph wire? Had he hit the side of a house? He just didn't know.

The rest of the day passed in a blur. He was collected by one of the Echo team and taken to Parrot HQ. Nigel was a wild parrot so he didn't exactly see it this way but he was very lucky to meet Jon, the charming vet, from Spain. It was early on a Saturday morning so Jon felt a great empathy for Nigel because he too was in pain, dazed and confused.

Nigel's grumpiness came out in full flair

as he was being carefully checked over, and even more so after he received pain-killers. Nonetheless Nigel was given first class treatment. His health was generally good but there was a risk of deterioration so his poo was collected. Later it was checked studiously under the microscope generously made available at CIEE. It was determined that Nigel had too much yeast and so that too was treated. Of course the parrot team did not know Nigel's name was, uhm, Nigel and so as result of his cantankerous nature he was given the best of the many bad names that were suggested and called Thatcher.

An X-ray was made and it was confirmed that Thatcher's (That's Nigel in case you are skim reading) humerous was broken. This of course is not very funny. The humerous (in the upper arm) of a human is a relatively long bone. Birds, however, fly and so their humerous has to be short and strong to handle the immense forces required to move their wings. If a man was to have the same relative amount of muscle that a bird has for flight, his pecs (or breast muscle) would protrude a meter out in front of him. Just to be clear, Dear Reader, a male human was used in the above example not because they are the only sex that can be muscley. Goodness no, we don't see it that way but it has occasionally been brought to our attention that female humans have mammary glands which are the very essence of being a mammal and therefore not a bird and so a female human seemed a little less suitable for this example.

Anyway, Dear Reader let's refocus and consider another of the other incredible adaptations birds evolved in order to fly. Possibly most obvious of these is the keel on a bird's breastbone. This can be seen after the consumption of any (preferably free-ranging, grown on organic land, able to lead a happy life) chicken. The keel simply provides a location for the many breast muscle fibres to attach themselves. Carnivores such as lions have a similar keel, the sagittal crest, on the top of their head to attach their powerful jaw closing muscles.

(Continued on page 13)

## THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thurs. November 24  
Thanksgiving 2011



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Butternut squash soup  
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Homemade corn bread  
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### Appetizer/Salads

Marinated sweet potato, corn, apple  
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Mixed salad  
Crudités mix

### The Main Courses

Whole roasted turkey served with three  
kinds of stuffing.

-Classic American  
-Classic Ground beef  
-Rum Runners style

Oven roasted ham with a  
maple, garlic & bourbon glaze.

### On the side

Sautéed Cauliflower, Broccoli and Carrot  
Green veggie casserole with  
bacon bits and red onions

Spicy Cranberry & Apple Relish  
Cranberry sauce  
House style gravy

Mashed potatoes with fresh garlic  
and parsley  
Candied yams

### Desserts

Pumpkin pie  
Sweet potato cakes  
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At Rum Runners we do our utmost best to work with fresh ingredients only, However being on small remote island means that these are not always available if this is the case our chef will adjust the dish accordingly. For this we ask your understanding.



# A Passion For Peppers

*A Bonaire chef embraces the sizzling world of hot and spicy.*

“My food is not wimpy,” proclaims Wil Heemskerk. “Food needs that extra yard of excitement. If it has just the perfect zing, just the perfect heat—that makes me smile.”

Heemskerk’s philosophy and passion for peppers formed in 1991 when the young chef was considering a move to Melbourne, Florida, located midway along the Sunshine State’s Atlantic coast. Those were the days of The Mango Gang, a group of renegade, culinary misfits who boldly mixed fresh local produce and fish with the flavors of the Caribbean and Latin America, plus added a touch of Asia for good measure. The cuisine was dubbed Floribbean, reflecting the taste preferences of a place heavily influenced by visitors and immigrants mostly from the Americas.

That year Heemskerk started Voilá, a restaurant that embraced the Mango Gang’s food ethic. The menu included hot and spicy dishes powered by peppers. “I had to learn to cook for people in a warm climate,” explains Wil. “I’ve always been a fan of hot flavors. My sauces are not spicy hot, but fruity hot—in balance. It is not pure heat and heat only. They are a mix of flavors.”

That sensibility for balance began early for the Dutch-born Heemskerk. He was schooled in traditional French cooking, earning the prestigious 2-star Michelin designation. He then left for Bonaire and worked two years at Bistro Des Amis, located at the same spot as today’s Papagayo Restaurant. It was during this time that he met his wife-to-be, Sue. Bistro Des Amis was followed by a two-year stint at the famed Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. Then, Wil and Sue moved to Melbourne and had Floribbean success with Voilá. By 2002 the competition from bottom-dollar American chain restaurants was so intense that the couple decided to return to Bonaire and start Wil’s Tropical Grill. The restaurant was originally at the Harbour Village Lighthouse, and after two years, relocated to its present location at Kaya L. D. Gerharts #9.

That is where I continue my discussion about hot and spicy food with Wil, but he is unable to talk about peppers without revealing tempting recipes. For instance, I ask him about his fantastic, spicy ceviche. “Sweetness from the coconut milk, sourness from the lime juice, fish from the fish sauce, heat from the *sambal olek*. Ginger, coriander, maybe some red onions. So everything in there is so well balanced. Every time I make it, I’m still amazed what a beautiful flavor it is.”

While the “balance” factor is still Heemskerk’s trademark, he is unable to restrain his passion for peppers. “Hot food brings excitement. It is unbelievable how something so small is so flavorful. A pepper can tickle my buds for a couple of minutes, or on the other extreme, tear up my eyes and I know I’m going to feel it the next day. All that comes from that small green or red pod.”

That lust for heat is now fueling Wil and Sue’s new enterprise, The Flaming Flamingo. The couple has created a line of products prepared in Wil’s Tropical Grill kitchen. They are made with fresh ingredients and no preservatives. As Wil says, “There are no words on the label that you cannot pronounce.”

I had the opportunity to try them all. My



Wil Heemskerk displays his favorite chile pepper, the chipotle. Chipotles are smoked jalapeño peppers.



favorites, of course, are the five hot sauces, which mostly blend tropical fruit with the fiery habanero pepper. The mango-habanero tops my list. This bright orange concoction is thick and rich. It can be best described as a mango butter puree with a kick.

But Flaming Flamingo offers much more. There are finishing glazes like Passion Fruit that can be added to a stir-fry in the last minute of cooking for a fantastic, caramelized finish. There are several barbecue sauces for roasting chicken or ribs on the grill. And then there are the rubs—Smoky Coconut, Thai Spice, Tropical Chipotle, Wasabi Mustard, and Espresso, a surprising blend of smoked paprika, brown sugar, ancho chile, orange zest and ground espresso beans. “The rubs are dry ingredients that you can put on a piece of fish or meat with a bit of oil,” adds Wil. “It makes a nice crust. They are great for pan frying or the grill.”

Gracing every Flaming Flamingo product is a colorful logo custom designed by famed Canadian cartoonist, Ron Leishman. “He gave us two designs—one flaming out of his mouth and one flaming out of his behind,” laughs Wil. “We took the one flaming out of his mouth. We then asked Ron to give him a nice jacket so that he looks like a

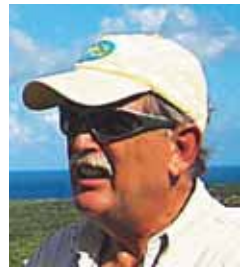
tourist and a couple of eyeballs that are popping out from the heat and Flaming Flamingo was born.”

The couple also packages dried tropical fruits under the Flaming Flamingo label, ideal energy food for active divers and other sports enthusiasts. All the products can be purchased at the cruise ship market or Monday through Friday evenings at Wil’s Tropical Grill.

Before ending our conversation, I had to ask Wil one more burning question. What is his favorite pepper? “It has to be the chipotle (smoked jalapeño). “It is smoky, intense, a beautiful heat. It’s not too hot, but it has such a beautiful complexity.”

Smoky, intense, beautiful complexity? You can better believe Heemskerk when he says his food is not wimpy. ■ *Story & photos by Patrick Holian*

*Holian is a freelance writer living on Bonaire. He began his magazine career a decade ago writing articles for Fiery Foods Magazine about hot and spicy cuisine around the world.*



Wil’s Grill: Kaya L. D. Gerharts #9. phone: 717-6616

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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
Nov. Fri 25	01:24 0.15 ft	04:53 0.10 ft	12:28 1.29 ft	21:31 -0.24 ft	New Moon	6:37	18:07
Sat 26	03:04 0.19 ft	05:49 0.17 ft	13:23 1.27 ft	22:22 -0.28 ft		6:38	18:07
Sun 27	04:20 0.26 ft	07:06 0.24 ft	14:19 1.21 ft	23:09 -0.30 ft		6:38	18:07
Mon 28	05:14 0.35 ft	08:37 0.31 ft	15:13 1.13 ft	23:52 -0.29 ft		6:39	18:08
Tue 29	05:59 0.45 ft	10:09 0.35 ft	16:06 1.02 ft			6:39	18:08
Wed 30		00:30 -0.26 ft	06:40 0.55 ft	11:35 0.36 ft	16:57 0.89 ft	6:40	18:08
Dec, Thu 01		01:05 -0.21 ft	07:18 0.64 ft	12:57 0.35 ft	17:46 0.76 ft	6:40	18:08
Fri 02	First Quar- ter	01:35 -0.15 ft	07:53 0.73 ft	14:16 0.32 ft	18:35 0.61 ft	6:41	18:08
Sat 03		02:02 -0.09 ft	08:27 0.81 ft	15:32 0.27 ft	19:24 0.48 ft	6:41	18:09
Sun 04		02:23 -0.02 ft	08:59 0.87 ft	16:46 0.21 ft	20:17 0.36 ft	6:42	18:09
Mon 05		02:39 0.04 ft	09:31 0.92 ft	17:57 0.14 ft	21:19 0.25 ft	6:42	18:09
Tue 06		02:48 0.09 ft	10:02 0.96 ft	19:04 0.07 ft	22:39 0.17 ft	6:43	18:10
Wed 07		02:45 0.12 ft	10:34 0.99 ft	20:06 0.01 ft		6:44	18:10
Thu 08	11:06 1.01 ft	21:00 -0.05 ft				6:44	18:10
Fri 09	11:42 1.02 ft	21:47 -0.10 ft				6:45	18:11

### Kamara di Komersio i Industria Boneriano Kamer van Koophandel en Nijverheid Bonaire Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bonaire Camara de Comercio e Industria de Bonaire

#### ELEKSHON KAMARA DI KOMERSIO I INDUSTRIA BONAIRE

**K**amara di Komersio i Industria ta  
anunsiá ku e komishon di eleksion a  
pone e siguiente personanan riba e lista di  
kandidato pa eleksion di dos (2) miembro di  
bestür di Kámara di Komersio pa  
vakaturanan periódiko di representante pa  
"Grootbedrijf" i "Kleinbedrijf".

Kandidatonan:  
- pa eleksion di representante pa  
"Grootbedrijf":

señora M.A.C. Croes-Oduber  
- pa eleksion di representante pa  
"Kleinbedrijf":

- señor H.F. Leter
- señor G.F. Obersi
- señor A.F. Sealy

Komishon di Eleksion a tuma e siguiente  
desishon:

Konsiderando ku riba e lista di kandidato,  
manera stipulá pa e Komishon di Eleksion,  
tin un (1) kandidato postulá i tin un (1)  
vakatura pa eleksion periódiko pa  
"Grootbedrijf" Komishon di Eleksion ta  
deklará e kandidato ku a keda postulá, eligi  
komo miembro di bestür di Kámara di  
Komersio i Industria.

Konsiderando ku riba e lista di kandidato,  
manera stipulá pa e Komishon di Eleksion,  
tin tres (3) kandidato postulá i tin un (1)  
vakatura pa eleksion periódiko pa  
"Kleinbedrijf", Komishon di Eleksion a  
disidí ku lo tin eleksion pa un representante  
pa "Kleinbedrijf".

Presidente  
E.L. Piar Bonaire, 17 novèmber 2011

#### VERKIEZINGEN KAMER VAN KOOPHANDEL EN NIJVERHEID BONAIRE

De Kamer van Koophandel en Nijverheid  
Bonaire maakt hierbij bekend dat de  
Verkiezingscommissie van de Kamer van  
Koophandel en Nijverheid Bonaire de  
navolgende kandidaten geplaatst heeft op de  
Kandidatenlijst voor de verkiezing van  
drie leden van de Kamer in de periodieke  
vacatures voor het Grootbedrijf en voor het  
Kleinbedrijf. De kandidaten zijn:

- voor de verkiezing voor het Grootbedrijf:  
mevrouw M.A.C. Croes-Oduber

- voor de verkiezing voor het Kleinbedrijf:  
• de heer H.F. Leter  
• de heer G.F. Obersi  
• de heer A.F. Sealy

De Verkiezingscommissie heeft de navolgende  
beslissingen genomen:

Aangezien de op de door de  
Verkiezingscommissie vastgestelde  
Kandidatenlijst geplaatste kandidaten voor de  
periodieke verkiezing voor het Grootbedrijf één  
(1) bedraagt en het aantal te vervullen plaatsen  
één (1) is, verklaart de Verkiezingscommissie  
de op de kandidatenlijst geplaatste kandidaat  
voor de periodieke verkiezing voor het  
Grootbedrijf bij kandidaatstelling gekozen.

Aangezien de op de door de  
Verkiezingscommissie vastgestelde  
Kandidatenlijst geplaatste kandidaten voor de  
periodieke verkiezing voor het Kleinbedrijf drie  
(3) bedragen en het aantal te vervullen plaatsen  
één (1) is, beslist de Verkiezingscommissie dat  
voor de verkiezing van één lid van de Kamer  
voor de periodieke vacature voor het  
Kleinbedrijf, een stemming zal worden  
gehouden.

De Voorzitter  
w.g. E.L. Piar, Bonaire, 17 november 2011



# Bonaire Real Estate Reflections

## PRICING YOUR HOME: \$ OR €

The US dollar is the official currency of Bonaire. There is no rule or law against pricing your property in either dollars or euros. Many properties are listed in euros. A few are listed in both.

In making your decision between listing your property in dollars or euros there are many things you should consider. There is no hard and fast rule.

There are a few key questions that are more important than all the other questions.

**First** who is your target market, your anticipated buyer? If your most likely buyer is American you absolutely must list your price in dollars. For whatever reason most Americans hate currency conversion issues and avoid them like the plague. If you really want to lose your sale before you even begin, list your American buyer property in Euros.

**Second** what is happening in the currency markets? As I write the Euro declined and then rose almost 1.8% in four hours!

Imagine you have sold your home for 500,000€ You are sitting in the Notary's office eagerly awaiting your check. The Notary says the value of the Euro has just slid 1.8%. That means you have lost the purchasing power equivalent of \$9,000. You still get your 500,000€ only it does not buy as much as it did in the morning.



The buyer in our example, of course, is thrilled if the calculation is made when the rate has dropped 1.8%. If the conversion is made when it has risen 1.8% the buyer has to pay another \$9,000 or its Euro equivalent. This is real money out of the purchaser's bank account.

**Third** many properties self define the potential buyer. This is neither a plus nor a minus. It is a simple reflection that European, especially Dutch, buyers have very different tastes in homes than Americans. If you have a European designed and architectural property do not fight the market. Price your property in Euros. If you are willing to accept payment in dollars set a dollar price. You must accept and understand that you will bear the risk of currency fluctuation.

If sufficient currency fluctuation has occurred, understand your European buyer may pay you in dollars and your American buyer pay you in Euros! It will be your risk.

**Fourth** you must clearly state in your

contract the currency payment must be made in. Regardless of the stated listing price currency, if there was any discussion about paying using another currency you absolutely must state which currency the payment is to be made in. Lack of clarity on this issue is a guarantee there will be problems in the future.

**Fifth** if the purchase price is very significant you should consider hedging your position by locking in your position with a trade in the foreign exchange futures market. There are costs, commissions and some risk in any foreign exchange position. If the price is large enough this is a method to protect your position. Both buyer and seller can buy a currency "lock."

Is all of this important to you? Yes! There are houses on Bonaire that were listed for sale when \$1.15 was equal to one Euro. Several of those homes were offered for sale in the 2,000,000€ range. When the Euro rose to \$1.50 the increase was 30.4%! If the potential buyer was European there was no impact. If the potential buyer was American the actual out of pocket costs was a price increase of \$608,000!

Some of these homes are still available for sale today.

■ **Anna & Art Kleimer**  
The Kleimers are founding partners of Bonaire Island Real Estate, B.V. Email:



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



Parrot Update (Continued from page 10)

Days passed and Thatcher found himself immensely frustrated. He was stuck in a cage, his life and any possibility of seducing Maggie were over. Jon was equally frustrated because if there had been the right veterinary equipment on the island he could have operated on Thatcher and given him a much greater chance of being able to fly again. Jon of course had been similarly frustrated with Bruce's situation. There undoubtedly would be other broken birds arriving and naturally there would be many other uses for the finely tuned and very accurate gas machine needed to anaesthetize parrots. And so, Dear Reader, we will have to think of a way to make this possible for it is a shame and a frustration that the parrots of Bonaire should get anything other than the very best in terms of care and attention.

Please take a look and find out more about the various wild, rescued and broken birds the Echo team are caring for on our regularly updated Facebook page [www.facebook.com/echobonaire.org](http://www.facebook.com/echobonaire.org)

Sam Williams

Dr. Sam Williams has been studying Bonaire parrots since 2003. He founded the the Echo Foundation dedicated to conserving Bonaire's natural environment. is supported by contributions. Special thank to Storehouse Mangazina.



## Tourist TV Debuts

Eduard de Vries, Michiel Van Bokhorst, Hendrik Wuyts, Eva Bos of Tourist TV

Tune to Channel 1 (Telbo MiTV) or Flamingo TV Channel 60 to get Bonaire's newest programs on the TV channel that teaches you all about Bonaire. Although aimed at tourists it is informative for all. Check it out. ■

## DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

### Sudoku Solution

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

ε	ρ	ς	θ	8	ϑ	ϕ	ι	γ
ι	ϕ	θ	ς	γ	ρ	ϑ	ε	8
γ	ϑ	8	ι	ϕ	ε	θ	ς	ρ
8	γ	ϕ	ϑ	ι	θ	ε	ρ	ς
ρ	ς	ϑ	γ	ε	8	ι	θ	ϕ
θ	ι	ε	ρ	ς	ϕ	γ	8	ϑ
ϑ	ε	ι	ϕ	ρ	ς	8	γ	θ
ς	θ	γ	8	ϑ	ι	ρ	ϕ	ε
ϕ	8	ρ	ε	θ	γ	ς	ϑ	ι

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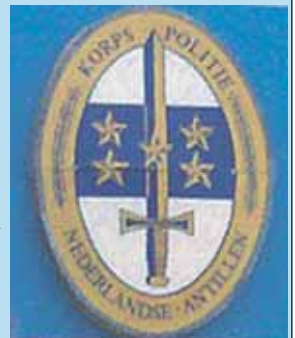
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## BonQuiz #69

POLICE SHIELD

The emblem or shield of the Antillean police originally had six white stars depicting the six islands within the Dutch Kingdom in the Caribbean, two sheaves of wheat and the Sword of Justice. The stars were reduced to five, when Aruba received status aparte in 1986. Since Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius have become Dutch municipalities- the BES Islands - will this Netherlands Antilles Police Corps Emblem remain the same? It still hangs at the entrance of the police headquarters on Bonaire....



In 1949 the three Corps were reorganized into the Netherlands Antilles Police Force. The three were merged into one.

Q) Which Corps were these? 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:

IslandToursBonaire.com Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456 Email: [christie-dovale@hotmail.com](mailto:christie-dovale@hotmail.com)





# Remembering Bonaire 1966-1994

“In November 1966 we came from New Jersey to live here and began to work for Trans World Radio. My first impression,” *Barbara says*, “was that it was very windy and one of my suitcases was gone with my curlers in it! To me that seemed like a disaster! But soon I got used to the wind and I let go... hair and Bonaire don’t go together...”

Everybody we met was very friendly and the island was quiet. First we went to live on Kaya CB Hellmund, then we moved to Kaya Barakuda in Antril Pabou where we rented a house from Nerio and Leticia Marcelina – we’ve just visited them - and that’s where we lived when our first son John Paul was born. After giving birth I had to stay 10 days in the hospital. That’s the way it was.

Then we moved to Kaya Papa Cornes and while there our second son Mark was born. Mark still lives on the island.”

“My work,” *Chuck says*, “was operating and maintaining the transmitters of TWR and Barbara started out working in the finance office of TWR until John Paul was born. Then she took care of some babies so other moms could work at the office. We attended a Papiamentu class at the Reina Beatrix School - at the time it was next to the post office – but as we never had to use the language much as the Antilleans who worked with us were eager to learn English, we didn’t take it on. But John Paul and Mark learned Dutch, Spanish and English at school and Papiamentu outside.”

*Barbara continues*: “The supermarket, Kralendijk Supermarket, was very small. I remember the hamburger meat was very cheap and a can of tuna fish would cost 25 cents. I bought what was there and then I would look at the picture on the can or the jar to see what was in it! To save electricity the supermarket staff would put a sheet of cardboard over the case and switch off the electricity at night, and the power company did so too. So, you only bought frozen food when it first came in. And when the meat looked green you didn’t buy it! There was a bread store in front of the supermarket with four kinds of bread: bread made with milk, bread made with water, sliced or unsliced! Our ‘egg-lady’ (eggs were not always available) was Maria ‘Chi-Chi’ Goedgedrag and she would guarantee us one dozen eggs on Wednesday afternoon. We just visited her at the Kas di Sosiego. She’s 94 years old now but she remembered us! That’s why we always come back here – to see the people...”

“We bought a VW Beetle,” *Chuck says*, “and our license plate was #448. That’s how many cars there were on Bonaire and it was normal when meeting other motorists to wave ‘hello’. The other thing was my motorcycle. In that year – 1966 – they’d only made 50 stamped license plates for motorcycles and as my number was #54, somebody from the license bureau or the government sawed one out of plywood and painted #54 on it! In comparison to today – I’ve seen a license plate over #8000 – Bonaire has become busy!”

Being so fair skinned, our times at the beach were always early in the morning or just before sunset. We swam, we went spelunking and we visited Slagbaai before it became a national park. A Dutch couple

introduced us to table shuffle board (Dutch: *sjoelbak*) and we liked it. Our children and their friends all used to play.”

“When it was time for them to go to high school,” *Barbara says*, “both our boys went to a mission school in Quito, Ecuador. They only came home for Christmas and summer. That was hard when they went away, over a thousand miles...” *Barbara and Chuck are lovely, very social people. He’s 74 and she is 69, but they look pretty good. Barbara doesn’t show one wrinkle on her round, honest face and when I ask how come she answers, “Because living on Bonaire is healthy!”*

“Well, something we enjoyed very much was going into town, looking for tourists who looked disorientated or confused. They would be walking around with the pink newspaper, ‘*Bonaire Holiday*’ stuck in their back pocket and we would ask, ‘can we help you?’ You know, we were very proud of Bonaire and we wanted the tourists to experience and love it as much as we did. What was it that we loved so much? The people... always the people!”

“In addition to my technical work,” *Chuck says*, “I was responsible for safety and first aid at TWR. Our instructors came from New Jersey and taught intensive first aid, CPR and childbirth to our staff. So I taught CPR to the fire department, the nurses at the hospital and to the dive instructors. We weren’t certified but we knew more than anybody else and so we shared what we knew.”

“When we came to Bonaire,” *Barbara says*, “we came with a pet cat we got from the animal shelter in New Jersey and a paperback book, ‘How to Take Care of Your Cat.’” *She laughs*. “It wasn’t long before people knew I knew something about animal care. People would stop me in the street and ask me for advice. I had an office in Nort di Salina, three afternoons a week and I would do whatever was necessary- except for surgery - to help the sick animals with the help of an interpreter, Angelie Thielman. She was an air traffic controller. Somebody else who had a compassion for animals was Dr. Welvaart. He would see animals on his porch on Thursday afternoon, after he’d seen the people. There was no veterinary care on the island, so soon Dr. Welvaart and I were consulting with each other. Eventually I met the vet in Curacao, Dr. Dick Gorsira, and I asked him if he would come to Bonaire and help us, I would set up a schedule for him. He would come over on weekends and sometimes there would be 50 animals and their people waiting for him in the hot sun. It was a big deal! I became his assistant in surgery, mostly cat and dog sterilizations. All in all, over the years, I’ve worked with 11 different veterinarians from Curacao and Holland. And just before Chuck and I left the island in 1994, Dr. Welvaart and I made sure the veterinarian clinic was established here. At the official opening I cut the gauge bandage with bandage sheers!”

Together with Lous Rood, Lynn Thijsen and others, we founded the animal shelter with donations and land given by the government, after especially Lous and I had dealt with and foster-homed many, many abandoned animals. For me, it was



*Barbara and Chuck Roswell*

my secondary ministry and I was happy to see that after 19 years it still exists.

One of the highlights of this trip was our visit to the animal shelter and we made a little donation as well and we highly recommend other people to do the same and support the shelter in every possible way.”

“When TWR stopped short wave broadcasting,” *Chuck says*, “my job here was done and I was assigned a similar type job in Europe. After I was 65 we ‘retired’ from TWR and we became missionaries

with ‘Source of Light International.’ We live in Madison, Georgia, voted the #1 small town in the US – a friendly little town like Bonaire.”

“We enjoy coming back to Bonaire in our older years,” *Barbara says*. “We feel the best years of Bonaire we’ve seen in our time was when we raised our children and it was a deep, deep grief when we left after 27 1/2 years. It took me about five years to accept I was gone...” ■

*Story & photo by Greta Kooistra*

## Picture Yourself With The Reporter in... Antwerp, Belgian

Bonaire residents Donna, Ava Rose and Hendrik Wuyts take a break to get photographed during a visit to Hendrik’s native Belgium. They were on vacation to visit friends and family in Europe. Hendrik runs ScubaVision, Donna is a Feng Shui expert and Ava Rose helps with the mailings of *The Bonaire Reporter*. ■

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## WEAVING ART INTO LIFE



Wine Fransen

Recently (November 8-18) artist Wine Fransen was in Bonaire, offering art classes at Kas di Arte, covering textile art, glass painting and gold leaf techniques. The classes were well attended and enjoyed not only by Bonaireans but by island residents who now live on Bonaire.

The day after the artist arrived on Bonaire she invited me, at 7 in the morning, to take an imaginary walk into her past. We step outside in the back yard of Skol di Arte and walk through the imaginary rooms of her youth where she once played as a child. Wine tells me she was born on Curaçao in 1951 and came to live here with her parents when she was just a few months old. She speaks of her father, Dr. Fransen, with reverence, and if you listen closely as the story of her young life unfolds, you get taken back to historical Bonaire in living color. Wine Fransen paints a picture with her story telling, the same way she does with her paintings.

In 1968 Wine would travel to Holland to further her studies, but to this day when she speaks of Bonaire her passion for this island is evident. In The Netherlands she attended the academy for Visual Arts both in Utrecht and in Groningen, earning *cum laude* appreciation for her artistic talent. Today her



One of Wine Fransen's classes at Kas di Arte



Seascape by Wine Fransen

paintings can be seen worldwide in government buildings, palaces, mansions, museums, banks, churches, hotels and schools as well as in private homes. She has had exhibitions all over Europe, the US, including Hawaii, and in Seoul, Korea.

She does a lot of study and consultation for her portraits, first meeting with her subjects to learn about their personalities, their way of life, and to appreciate not only the outer layer of the person, but also the mysterious inner layer which reflects in the heart of her subjects. In her artwork you find the unique symbiosis of the clean colors from her Antillean roots along with the great intensity of the Dutch

masters. In her landscapes, portraits and other works of art are layer upon layer of continuous color harmonizing over a layer of pure gold leaf. The end result is an artwork which becomes a story of the intimate history of the families who pass on her work.

As I sit next to Wine on the bench outside Kas di Arte, she speaks to me about the colors and transparency she is seeing in the water as it gently rolls towards us. She talks about layering those various colors on canvas and I am taken to a magical place in my head; a place of light, color and sound. For Wine the transparency of color she is seeing, she tells me, is the core of life.

The camaraderie of Wine's students was nice to experience, and they are all now friends of Kas di Arte. They brought their hands, hearts and creativity to "The Kas" and want more lessons to be held there. (Kas di Arte does plan to hold more classes in the future.)

Wine Fransen has much to offer this world. I will always treasure the time I have spent with her. ■ Story & photos by Sandra Johnson. Johnson is the administrator of Bonaire's Kas di Arte, the island's waterfront art gallery. Wine's website: [WWW.winefransen.com](http://WWW.winefransen.com)



Website: [www.winefransen.com](http://www.winefransen.com)



Portraits by Wine Fransen

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# SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

# Opera and More

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## ART

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## APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ 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.



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## DENTURE REPAIR

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## DINING

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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.

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## UNDERWATER VIDEO

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**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.

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## RETAIL

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

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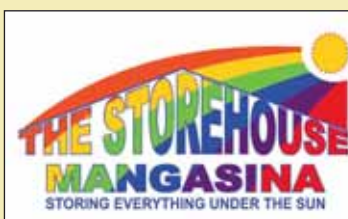
**Gaia Productions** can provide all your digital printing needs. Including banners, stickers, cards and other advertising items. Celebrating 10 years in business.

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## SHIPPING

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## 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

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Here are the three stars from the Special Festive Concert sponsored by the Classical Music Board Bonaire at Plaza last Saturday night. The audience was dazzled by their performances.

Soprano **Nicole van Eer** who sang excerpts from Mozart, Bellini, Gerdi, Tosti, Puccini, Bizet and lighter fare from Phantom of the Opera, West Side Story, A Little Night Music and Guys and Dolls. Her foray onto men's laps in the audience during the Habanera from Bizet's Carmen brought down the house.

Thirteen year old **Deborah Helder**, winner of the First Prize at the 2011 Crescendo Piano Competition, played Beethoven, Chopin and Schubert and joined, four handed, with Armand Simon for two pieces. She stole the show. Aruban **Armand Simon** was a perfect accompanist on the piano. He's a chamber musician, festival director, soloist teach and director of an art academy. ■ L.D.

## Bubbles From the Biologist Did You Know...

Wikipedia photo



## Emperor penguins plan out their dives beneath the sea ice?

Much like the human divers here on Bonaire, penguins in Antarctica make a dive plan before plunging into the ocean in search of food. Scientists recently discovered that Emperor Penguins control how much air they breathe in based upon the depth they will be diving. The penguins seem to know precisely how deep they will be going and fill their lungs accordingly. When diving to depths as great as 500 meters, it pays to plan ahead! ■ *Jack Olson, edited by Caren Eckrich*

*Jack Olson is a senior at the University of Colorado and hopes to become a Marine Ecologist. This semester he is participating in CIEE Research Station Bonaire's semester abroad program.*





# WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

Day	Date	Ship	Arrive/Depart	PAX Cap	Line
WED	Nov. 23	Grandeur of the Seas	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
THU	Nov. 24,	Caribbean Princess	1200-1900	3100	Princess Cruises
WED	Nov. 30,	Star Flyer	1200-2000	170	Star Clippers
WED	Nov. 30	Crown Princess	0800-1700	3100	Princess Cruises
THU	Dec. 1	Westerdam	0800-1700	1918	HAL
THU	Dec. 1	Zuiderdam	1100-2300	1918	HAL
FRI	Dec. 2	Grandeur of the Seas	0800-1600	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
FRI	Dec. 2	Emerald Princess	0700-1400	3100	Princess Cruises
TUE	Dec. 6	Ventura	0800-1700	1950	P&O Cruises
TUE	Dec. 6	Aida Luna	1000-1800	2050	AIDA Cruises
WED	Dec. 7	Noordam	0800-1700	1918	HAL
WED	Dec. 7	Caribbean Princess	0700-1400	3100	Princess Cruises
THU	Dec. 8	Grandeur of the Seas	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
FRI	Dec. 9	Zuiderdam	0800-1700	1918	HAL

### Cruise Ship Calls -Information provided by the TCB

#### CLOSE-IN EVENTS

**Thursday, Nov. 24—American Thanksgiving Day**

**Friday, Nov. 25— Taste of Bonaire, Wilhelmina Park, See page 7**

**Saturday, Nov. 26**  
 – San Nicolas arrives— Wilhelmina Parke, around 2 pm. Information: *Sentro Hubentut I Famia*, 715-7200.  
 –Farmers' Market at Pakus di Pruga 8 am-noon, across from Jong Bonaire

**Sunday, Nov. 27**  
 –Health Fair at St. James School of Medicine— see page 9 for details  
 —Sunday, Nov. 27 - Back On Track Rock 'n Roll, Spice Beach Club, 4 pm

**Saturday, Dec. 3—Farmers' Market at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #33, next to Aquamarin School, 8am-noon**

**Saturday, Dec. 10**  
 —Animal Shelter Dinner & Auction at Sense—see page 3 & 18  
 —Jong Bonaire Youth Center reopens

**Saturday, Dec. 17—December Holiday Concert**, sponsored by the Classical Music Board Bonaire, 8pm pm, Plaza Hotel.  
[www.classicalmusicbonaire.com](http://www.classicalmusicbonaire.com)

#### 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.
- **Farmers' Market, last Saturday of the month**, at Pakus di Pruga, 8 am– noon, Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café.
- **Bonaire Animal Shelter's "Garage Sale" Pakus di Pruga—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.
- **Chess Training** - Children & adults. \$5, 512-9660. Volunteers welcome

#### Sundays

• **Kunuku Arawak** - Music, drinks, local food, dancing, 10 am—6 pm. Tel.786-7210

#### Mondays

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

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

#### Tuesdays

• **Chez Nous Restaurant**—Multi course dinner, \$20, at the high school. Reservations mandatory 700-4628

#### Wednesdays

• **Chez Nous Restaurant** —Multi-course lunch, about \$12, at the high school. Reservations mandatory 700-4628.

• **Ben & Harrie Acoustic Guitar Duo** at Spice Beach Club, 6-9 pm, Eden Beach

#### 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, cost is \$1, call Renata at 796-5591 to find out the evening's location.

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

**International Bible Church**, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. De-brot. Sunday 9:00 am Worship service in English; 10:45 am Sunday school for all ages. Tuesday 7:30 pm Adult bible study class. 717-8377 for more info or ride [bonaireibc@yahoo.com](mailto:bonaireibc@yahoo.com)

**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.

### Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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# BONAIRE ON WHEELS

The 96<sup>th</sup> of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels." On course for 100+

## Marlon Abrahams i su Heru Bieu

(and his Old Iron)  
Bario den Tera/  
Bonaire – So one day I drove my truck along the Kaya Korona. I stopped at a local Chinese supermarket. Next to this supermarket there's a restaurant annex bar and a brutal looking naked bike was parked in front of it. So I entered the bar to look for the owner of the bike and I found him. His name is Marlon Abrahams and he lives in Bario den Tera. Marlon and his friends were enjoying some refreshments.



I introduced myself, showed an example of *The Bonaire Reporter*. Then Marlon was convinced. We walked outside to shoot some photographs. (I had to do this twice again later because my old and reliable digital camera got jealous. She had only 6.0 megapixels as my wife's camera had 7.2. But I never informed her about the 7.2-one. So how could she know?) So now I had some pictures with a lot of blur. Then we went inside the restaurant again and enjoyed some more refreshments.

As mentioned Marlon Abrahams lives in Bario den Tera, located in the center of the island of Bonaire. He has a job as operator at the waste water compound near LVV along the Kaminda Lagoen. Marlon, also known as "Big Daddy," is the proud owner of a Japanese made Suzuki GSXR750, built in 1986. He bought his bike about one year ago. The motorcycle was imported from Curacao. Further history is unknown but results from research are that those days, back in history the bike might have been imported from Europe. Maybe the bike was born as a Suzuki GSXR750, equipped with full fairings. The double head beams, the eccentric dashboard with rpm and speedometer, the hydraulic clutch. They all remind me of the original 1986

GSXR750 model, produced in a limited edition and being a collector's item now. Marlon really likes his motorcycle. He nicknames it "Heru Bieu," which stands for "Old Iron," a kind of rebellious name. The bike has always remained reliable. Nothing has broken down. Marlon repainted his machine flat black and he sometimes squeezes every horsepower out of it. The rear tire eating bike does some 200 kilometers per hour and accelerates like mad. So the bike might be made of old iron but at least it is made of top performing iron! Four-cylinder, four-stroke Suzukis have been produced for decades of years. This variety is cooled by a combination of oil and cooling liquid. There are four carburetors mounted. Air filters are thrown away for maximum inhalation. A hydraulic clutch connects the engine power to the rear wheel. The rear wheel is mounted in an extended rear fork, made of alloy. The aluminum made tubular frame holds the engine and the front fork. Light metal three-spoke rims are dressed up with fat rubbers. The rear wheel is almost always mounted with a slick. On a regular basis Marlon has to buy another bunch of second hand tires to reinforce the tarmac. Marlon says, "This Heru Bieu is fun to drive. I really like my bike. I like the flat

# Pet of the Week



Shelter Cat Maven, Jane Madden-Disko writes:

"Lovely "Rita" and her sister, Roseanne," (pictured above) arrived at the Bonaire Animal Shelter about eight months ago as beautiful, small kittens. Affectionate, but not pushy, they usually sit quietly off to the side watching and waiting for potential forever home families to notice them, rather than yelling "Pick me! Pick me!" Their laid back attitude is probably why they are still at the Shelter, because when you do notice these sisters you won't walk away. They are affectionate, playful and have the most amazingly soft fur...more like rabbit fur than cat fur. Rita is a beautiful grey and white tabby with that fabulous cat eyeliner! Sister Roseanne is a very unusual calico tabby.....red, grey, white, black and brown STRIPES instead of calico spots with the same lovely eyeliner. Rita and Roseanne will be small cats. They are now full grown.....so they won't take up very much room in your house, but they will surely fill up your heart!"

Keep in mind that for the \$55 cost of the Cat Adoption Fee, much is included. The

cats have been checked medically, shots given, worming, tested for feline leukemia and sterilized. And they have been proven "social." It's the best deal in town and you can be assured of getting the best in pets at the Bonaire Animal Shelter! See Rita and Roseanne and the other adoptees at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday-Saturday, 9 am-1pm, 3-5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Website: Bonaireanimalshelter.com. See the monthly Shelter videos—positively endearing!

### ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

**On Saturday, December 10 the Bonaire Animal Shelter will hold its Annual Shelter Dinner and Auction at Sense.**

Looking for a fun evening and an opportunity to help the Shelter? Then come join us. You may have a sneak peak on the Shelter website and even make a bid. (WWW.Bonaireanimalshelter.com) **Dinner is from 6 pm to 8:30 pm, the Auction starts at 8:30 pm. Tickets for the dinner will be available at the Shelter. If you can't join the dinner, please come to the auction beginning at 8:30. Admission is free.**

All proceeds will go to the care of the dogs and cats in the Animal Shelter Bonaire. More Information: [E-mail](mailto:) or call 717-4989. Thank you to all of the donating artists, sponsors, guests and volunteers who help to make the Auction and Dinern of the Animal Shelter a success. And very special thanks to: Sense Bonaire and Jacobs Architecten.

**Lots of fun, exciting prizes, including an opportunity to feature your pet in *The Reporter's* "Pet of the Week" column along with a grandé pizza. ■ Laura De-Salvo**

black paint. I like the stainless steel/alloy Nikko sound system. We cannot do hundreds of miles like in Europe or in the States, but every mile gives me a lot of fun. My bike is reliable and with a bunch of friends, associated with the Chilling Racing Team, I have a lot of fun. We use second hand slicks as it is hot and dry most of the time on my island. And when it is raining we just stay inside to wait for the sun. Then we are back on the road again, enjoying the motorized life of my island!

■ Story & photo by Jan Brouwer



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## BonQuiz Answer

In 1949 the three Corps were reorganized into the Netherlands Antilles Police Force. The three were merged into one.



Q) Which Corps were these?  
Answer-  
Corps Military Police  
Corps Civil Police  
Corps Field Guards

Question on page 13

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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## MOVEMENTS OF THE PLANETS

Now that winter is almost here, we have some really neat opportunities to watch the Moon and planets wander across the sky each night just after sunset.

For one we have a ghostly phenomenon with the Moon in the early evening. And for you early morning star gazers, we have another neat triangular arrangement of planets just before sunrise.

Just after sunset face west. In the early part of this week, you'll see a **waxing crescent Moon**. If your sky is dark enough, you may see a phenomenon that is often referred to as the "**Old Moon in the New Moon's Arms**." If you look at the dark portion of the Moon, you'll barely make out the pattern of the "Man in the Moon" hiding in the darkness. And you can spot this every month within a few days around **New Moon**.

What you're seeing is called "**Earthshine**." This happens when sunlight from the Earth illuminates the nighttime side of the Moon. Typically, this results in the Moon's nighttime side being bathed in a soft, faint light.

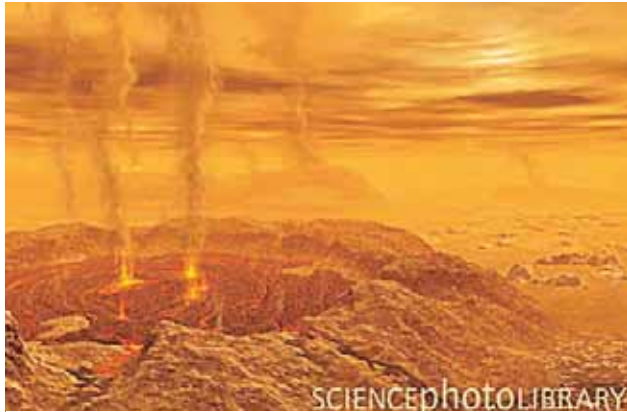
Now if that weren't exciting enough, did you know that the boundary between the daytime and nighttime side of the Moon actually has a name? Astronomers call it "**the terminator**."

But wait, there's more! Take a look to the left of the Moon and you'll see our sister planet, **Venus**. Named after the Roman goddess of beauty and love, Venus is making its grand reappearance in the evening sky.

When Venus is visible just after sunset, we early evening star gazers like to call Venus, **the evening star**.

And when Venus is visible just before sunrise, we early morning star gazers refer to Venus as **the morning star**.

As the nights pass, you'll notice Venus will be getting higher and higher in the sky, moving through the constellation of



The surface of Venus

**Sagittarius the centaur archer.** Although Venus looks beautiful and bright in the night sky, she's hiding a dreadful reality.

Venus is bright because sunlight is reflecting off the thick layer of clouds, which completely cover the planet. Years ago, scientists thought the clouds of Venus were made of water, like the clouds of Earth. The first space probes to fly into the clouds, however, discovered that they were made of something much different: **sulfuric acid**. And since sulfuric acid eats metal, the first space probes to enter Venus' atmosphere didn't last long.

And the atmosphere of Venus is made of **carbon dioxide**. There's so much of it in fact, that it's created a run-away green house effect, causing the planet to overheat.

The surface temperature of Venus is a toasty 854 degrees Fahrenheit. That's over 300 degrees hotter than the oven in your house! And it's like that all day long!

Now, if you swing around to the east just after sunset, you'll see another planet rising on the opposite horizon from Venus; 88,000-mile-wide **Jupiter**. As we go further into the month of December, you'll notice Jupiter rising earlier and earlier and Venus is setting later and later.

And... on the night of March 12th, 2012, they will appear right next to each other in what we call a **conjunction**. So mark your calendars! You'll see the red planet Mars. ■ *Dean Regas & James Albury,*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen  
Last part of November 2011

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Maybe it's time to look into ways you can improve your health. Changes at home might come fast and furious. A passionate party for two might be just the remedy. Organize your day to avoid any setbacks that might ignite temper flare-ups. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Investments are best left alone this month. You will be overly sensitive when dealing with your personal life. Travel should open doors that lead to exciting new adventures. You will enjoy interacting with those who come from different backgrounds. Your lucky day this month will be Saturday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You can learn a great deal if you listen to those who are older or more experienced. Your dynamic, determined approach will win favors as well as a helping hand. You must steer clear of overindulgent individuals. Go out with friends. Your lucky day this month will be Monday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Don't hesitate to enlist the aid of friends or family if you have a big project to finish in your domestic environment. You will be overly sensitive when dealing with your personal life. You hard work and dedication will payoff, so stick to your guns and do your job well. Do not expect others to do your work. Your lucky day this month will be Friday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Your emotions may get the better of you. Career changes may not be your choice right now, but in the long run they will be to your advantage. Travel will stimulate your need to experience exciting new things. Sign up for courses that will help you understand yourself better. Your lucky day this month will be Friday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your involvement with children will be most rewarding. Secret affairs will only lead to heartache. Pleasure trips will promote new romantic encounters. Networking will be a necessity. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Jealous co-

workers may try to sabotage your attempts to get ahead. Be aware of any deception on the part of those you deal with. Don't give them the use of your credit card. Don't bother getting even; they'll make themselves look bad. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Your involvement with groups will raise your self esteem. Take care of any paperwork concerning institutional or governmental agencies. You can learn valuable information if you listen and observe what others are doing and saying. Exercise programs will be effective. Your lucky day this month will be Monday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Communicate with relatives who may need advice in order to find solutions to their existing problems. Catch up on your correspondence and reading. Opportunities to get together with people in powerful positions could help you get ahead. You should be promoting your ideas. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You can expect changes in your financial situation as well as in your status. Have some fun, but draw the line if someone tries to fast talk their way into your heart. Real estate investments will be extremely profitable in the long run. Your outgoing nature will win hearts. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Include the whole family or those you love. New relationships could evolve through group activities. Your family may not be pleased with your decisions. Don't jump the gun; you may find yourself getting angry at the wrong person. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You can make money if you put your savings into conservative investments. You may want to talk to your boss about your future goals. People who try to persuade you to do things their way will annoy you. You may have taken on a little too much, but you will enjoy every minute of it. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday. ■

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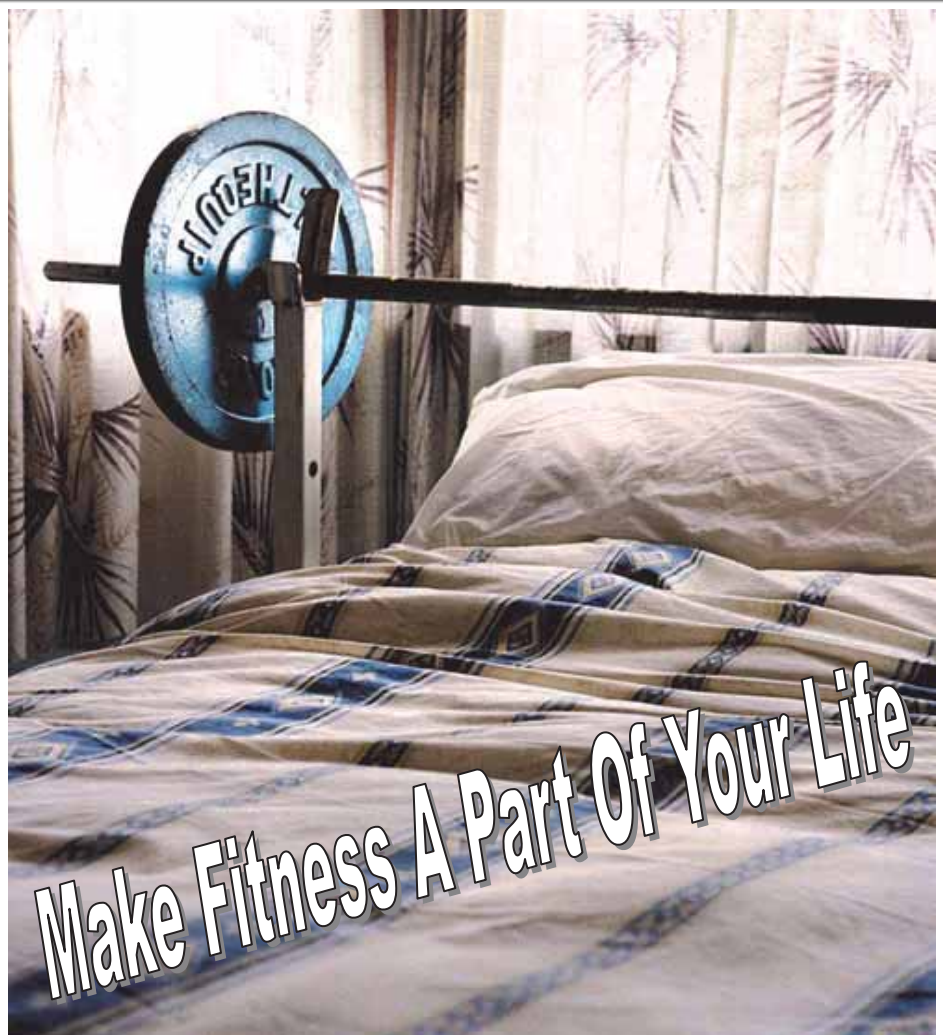
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