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BONAIRE Jan. 20-Feb. 3, 2012, Year 19, Issue 2
The REPORTER
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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**Largest TV Studio in the
ABC Islands in Bonaire**
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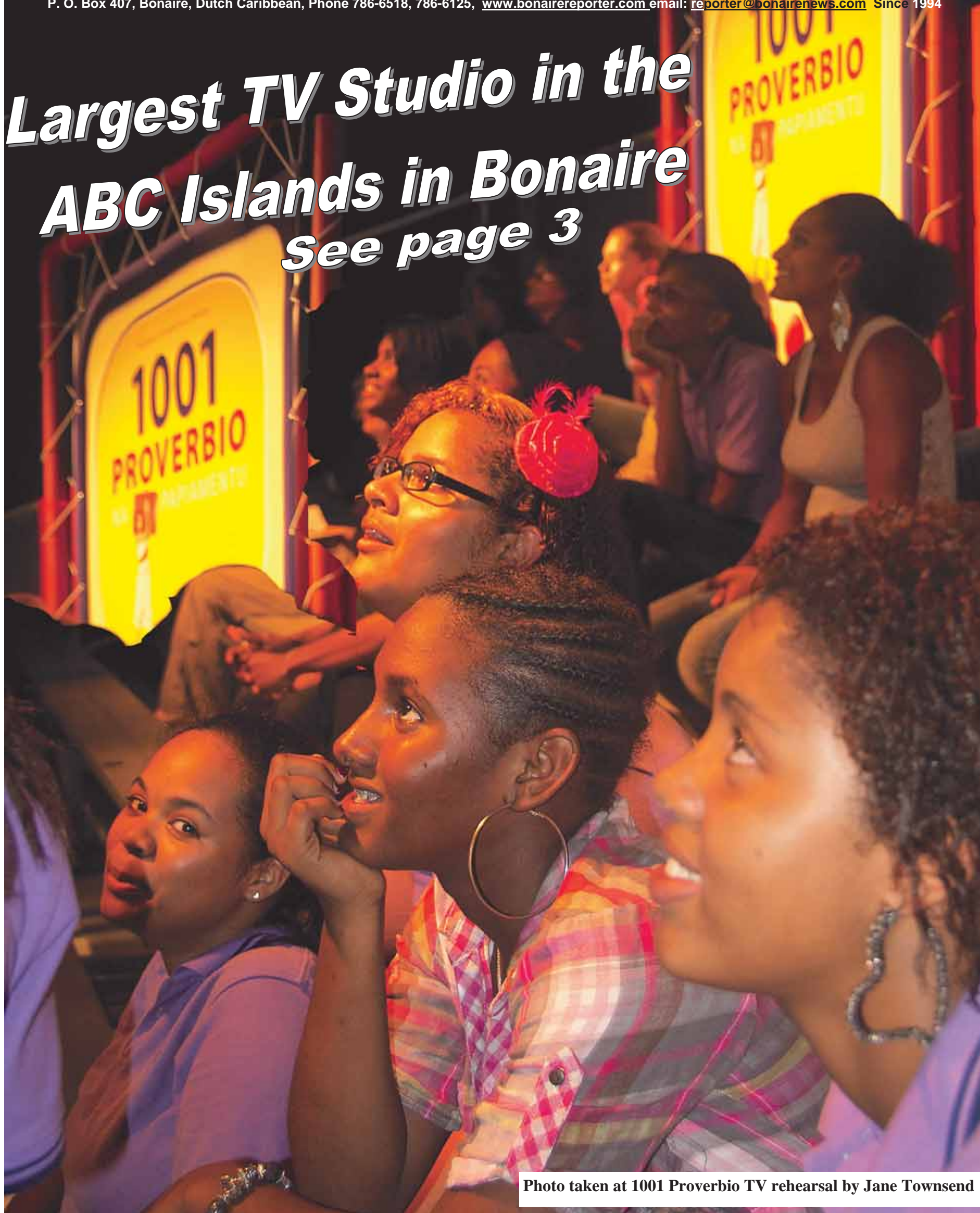


Photo taken at 1001 Proverbio TV rehearsal by Jane Townsend

Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER

The Bonaire government will present its vision for a future Kralendijk in two meetings. The long-term (10-year) ideas include: traffic, parking, access, tourism, public space (including green space) as well as urban and functional structure. The goal is to provide an economic center that functions well and is a good place to live. Bonairean residents are invited to offer their opinions, views and ask questions in two meetings:

- A general information meeting on Tuesday, 17 January from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at Jong Bonaire. During this evening the vision will be presented and you can ask questions and comment.
- A walk-in meeting on Wednesday 18 January from 1:30 to 5 pm in the meeting room of DROB (Spatial Development and Management), Kaya Amsterdam 23.

► **The annual Lora (Bonaire parrot) count is set for Saturday, January 28.** More details as they become available will be on *The Reporter* Facebook page and website www.bonairereporter.com.



► There were no demonstrations during the recent visit of Dutch parliamentarians to Bonaire, but the islanders did have a clear message: the living conditions took a turn for the worse after the implementation of the new status. During a "Meet and Greet" with the visiting delegation, residents vented their frustration. The gathering was well-attended and the hall was crowded. The introduction of the First and Second Chamber members was received with applause, but that was the end of cheerfulness, reported Scarlet Windster of Radio Netherlands on her website. The list of complaints shared by the local residents and politicians was a long and impressive.

► The US government's aviation administration, the FAA, issued a press release **downgrading Curaçao to a Category 2 country**, not in compliance with the international standards for aviation safety oversight as defined by the Chicago Convention and its Annexes. The FAA not only wants to see new equipment and inspection procedures but also a continuous upgrade plan for inspectors. Civil Aviation Curaçao can be upgraded to category one again after all stipulations have been met. Lack of aviation safety oversight was one of the causes cited for the fatal ditching of a Divi-Divi aircraft several years ago.

► Fortunately, since 10-10-10 Bonaire no

longer requires Curaçao's aviation oversight. The Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment is responsible for aviation security and supervision for the Netherlands including Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius. They are rated Category 1 of the FAA International Safety Assessment Program. The Flamingo Airport runway, following its recent renovation, is one of the newest, safest and longest runways in the region and also meets most international standards. The Dutch government intends to invest in further work at the airport with the construction of a new fire station installation of modern navigation gear. A new terminal is also planned. To further enhance flight safety in the next five years more stringent European EASA regulations will be introduced.

► **The project, "What is Bonaire's Cruise Tourism Worth?"** was kicked off last week by Hugo Gerharts, pioneer of passenger ship visits to the island. It involves research into the value of this type of tourism for the local economy. The Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation is providing the funding. The study is being done to gain perspective of the positive and negative effects of cruise tourism based on the premise that to measure is to know.

► The Chamber of Commerce, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture & Innovation and several local banks entered into a cooperation arrangement to **stimulate entrepreneurship on Bonaire. They will promote the micro-financing** available to new entrepreneurs who lack sufficient means or are able to offer little collateral for a credit from a regular bank. The Government will guarantee 80% of the starter loan amount. In many cases a loan can be combined with training and coaching by one of the advisors from the business community. The banks participating in the micro-financing project so far are Maduro & Curiel's Bank (MCB) Bonaire, Girobank and the Development Bank Netherlands Antilles, OBNA.

► **HILVERSUM—The 15-member Caribbean editorial staff of Radio Netherlands (RNW) will be dismissed at the end of this year.** Radio news broadcast for the Dutch Caribbean will be taken over by the Dutch national public broadcast station, Landelijke Publieke Omroep (LPO) as of 2013. The closure of the editorial departments of Radio Netherlands is the result of the cut of



the annual government subsidy from 46 million euros to 14 million euros. Since its start in 1947, Radio Netherlands has produced radio programs for the Dutch Caribbean, initially as part of the "West Indian Department."

► **LIMA--Dutchman Joran Van der Sloot** was sentenced to 28 years in prison by a Peruvian court last Friday for killing 21-year-old business student Stephany Flores after meeting her in a casino in Lima in 2010, exactly five years since 18-year-old American Natalee Holloway disappeared on Aruba after spending time with him. Van der Sloot was arrested twice in the Holloway case, but he was never charged due to lack of evidence as her body was never found. Coincidentally, an Alabama judge declared Natalee officially dead on Thursday. (Reuters)

► **On January 2 a new entrance fee for Washington Slagbaai National Park went into effect:** For residents with valid ID like a "sedula," it will be \$3 per person per day. For one calendar year the fee will be \$15. For international visitors with a valid \$25 SCUBA diving tag entrance to the park is free of charge. For international visitors with a valid \$10 Nature Fee tag, the entrance fee to the park is \$15. One must present the receipt of purchase together with a valid picture ID (or a copy of a valid picture ID) or a C-card at the entrance of the park. For international visitors without the SCUBA diving tag or Nature fee tag, the entrance fee to the park is \$25. All children, 13 years and younger, enter the park free of charge. For more information contact Junny Janga, WSNP Manager at 786-5229 or email at washingtonpark@stinapa.org.

► Looking for **fresh produce grown here on the island?** Krusada, a drug rehabilitation center, is selling fruits and vegetables, in season, at their location on Kaminda Lagoen 191, from their three shade houses. They're open Mondays from 11 am to noon and Thursdays from 3 to 4 pm. They are often at the Farmers' Markets: (1) **Last Saturday of the month**, 8 am to noon, at the Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter flea market) across from Brandaris



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Largest TV Studio in the ABC Islands on Bonaire



Rehearsal for the show

Last weekend Bonaire finished building the largest TV studio in the ABC islands. It was used to record the 1001 Proverbio TV (1001 Proverbs) game shows.

In a temporary TV studio that was built for this event in the Bonaire Sports Hall three shows were recorded with 150 primary school children and teachers of Bonaire on January 14 and 15th. The size of the studio (13x16 meters-43 x 52 feet) is huge and is probably the largest TV studio for live recordings on the ABC Islands ever built.

It all started last year when Fundashon Bon Kousa, in cooperation with Fundashon Akademia Papiamentu, were publishing the 1001Proverbio book. "We proposed the idea of a TV game show to the Bonaire school boards in May 2011, three months before the book's introduction," says the

founder of Bon Kousa, Bart Landheer. "We asked them what they would think about renewing interest in proverbs by making it into a contest between all the schools. The board, directors and teachers all loved the idea."

In the summer of 2011 Bon Kousa developed a teaching program aimed at involving children of all levels and development. "The Bonaire kids will be prepared to answer serious questions about spelling, meaning and use of the proverbs. Other kids are making drawings of different proverbs," said Jacqueline Bremmers of Bon Kousa.

In addition, all the schools have written and directed their own Proverbio school play. In the past three months Bon Kousa has seen the involvement and result grow and the enthusiasm is overwhelming: every single school wants to win this contest.

"When we came up with the idea of a TV game show," says Bremmers, "we did not realize how very complex it is to make it into a professional production, especially when we found that on Bonaire there's hardly any TV production material available to put on a TV show with 150 kids."



The TV studio and set for the 1001 Proverbio game show

Bon Kousa will produce the show together with Solobon Events and Flamingo TV. The broadcast date has not been set.

Flamingo TV started first by trying to find the required production materials and asked Bonaire, Aruba and Curaçao for quotes to rent them. "However kind and helpful the quotes were we realized that we would spend all that money and still have no material on Bonaire for future use," said Landheer.

Instead of spending the money on rent, Bon Kousa then decided to invest in the materials so that they could become permanently available on Bonaire. Thanks to a loan and welcome donations from people, companies and organizations both on Bonaire and in the Netherlands, Bon Kousa was able to buy all the necessary studio equipment. The material will stay on Bonaire and will be used for cultural and educational projects. Solobon Events will make it available for hire and manage the

materials.

Bon Kousa is working to make educational TV available on Bonaire long term. "It is a great way to help children learn and get involved and invest in learning," said Bremmers.

This first production is about language, but there are plenty more ideas for TV and radio shows in the making with and for the youth of Bonaire. For example a debating show with VWO/HAVO students of SGB or environmental education by further developing TV-Limpi, closely linked to Radio Limpi that Bon Kousa developed and produced successfully in the past months. Programs will not only focus on Papiamentu but also on Dutch and English as Bon Kousa finds it very important that the Bonaire children connect and professionally communicate with the rest of the world. ■ Press release/ G.D.

Contact: Bart Landheer 717-3839/ 787-0224 for more information

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On the Island Since... May 2009 -Rodney Emilio Turro Gomez

“The first time I left Cuba for Bonaire, it was very difficult. I had to leave my family and I had to deal with another culture. It turned out to be another world. As there was no direct flight I slept the first night in Jamaica. I felt bad - lost. That was the sensation and I was faced with unexpected things. It was like starting to walk for the first time in your life. From Jamaica I flew to Curaçao where I was joined by Minerva, a radiologist technician who was covering for me on Bonaire as there was nobody here to do the work. Together we flew at midnight to Bonaire. I was starved! At Divi Flamingo, where I got a nice room, there was no room service at midnight, so I went to sleep. The following day Minerva took me to the hospital at 7 am and I started working immediately.

I was born in Cárdenas, in the province of Matanzas, Cuba, in 1976. My family consists of my

father, my mother, me, my sister Lariza and my Aunt Maria. I also call my aunt ‘mother’ because I was always more with her as my mother was very strict. My father is a veterinarian and so is my mom, but she is not practicing. She specializes in bromatology, the science of aliments.

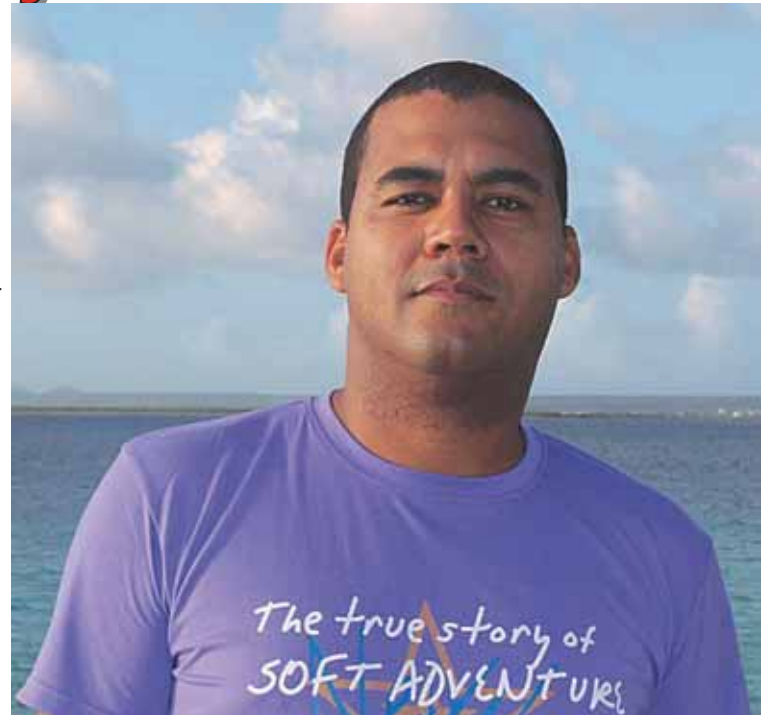
My childhood was like the childhood of all children in Cuba - happy -not like in other countries where you see children begging on the streets or working at a very young age. I have fantastic parents who cared and still care very much for me and my sister. They were also very concerned about our education.

When I was five I went to primary school where we were taught Spanish, world and Cuban history, musical education, art, mathematics and botany classes. I was always very good in literature! Later on chemistry and biology were added. I chose biology because my whole family - on

both my father’s and mother’s sides - are doctors. Of course we played sports as well- volleyball, basketball, baseball - all kinds of sports. It was mandatory, but I never liked it very much except for swimming, and now, on Bonaire, diving! But most of my time I spent studying. In Cuba, the government pays for education and health; they pay for everything. We don’t pay taxes,” *he laughs*, “It’s really good!

During my teenage years when I wasn’t studying I would hang out with my friends whom I’d known since I was a child. We would dance and laugh and we had a great time. Then I did pre-university and after that a three-year education to become a professional radiologist technician.

When I was 19 I got married. My wife was a nurse and we lived with my parents. I have two children: Helen, 12, and Harold, 10. Both my children still live with their mother at my parents’ house.



Rodney Gomez- Radiologist at the hospital

My children are beautiful; Helen is a very intelligent girl who loves music and to dance - just like her daddy! And my boy is very loving. They are the best things that happened to me in my life. They are my treasures. I am very proud of my family and my country and of the education I received.

All right, so I got married when I was 19 but at the same time I started working as an x-ray techni-

cian at the main hospital in the province of Matanzas and worked there for four years, two years in social service with a salary. I graduated and in 1999 I went to Havana to the university to study medical imaging. In Cuba you have to pass exams for the career of your choice and if your grades are good enough you can do the study. I passed and went to Ha-

(Continued on page 5)

“Every Cuban who is out of the country is looking for a better life... the life may be better... but there will always be the desire, the missing, the nostalgia, the longing...”

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On the Island Since (continued from page 4)
 vana. At the university the students had their dorms, but we would only live there when we had classes and/or exams. In the meantime I was still working in Matanzas.

When I think of my study time I feel I loved it more than anything because I adore Havana and everything I found there. To me it is like heaven! I made many, many friends and I dove into its culture. I went to the theatre, the ballet, to jazz festivals and classical and modern concerts and zarzuelas – operettas. I went to the movies and to festivals and it was just the best! Fabulous! I love my country so much and I am not Habanero (from Havana), but Havana is something special. It's my passion! You can say I grew up there. It taught me so much. *There's Rodney Gomez – a great professional, very well educated, an intense and sensitive person, but also good looking, a great dancer and a wonderful friend.*

I graduated in 2003, and I started working at Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital as a licensed specialist in medical imaging. The hospital is one of the most important in the country. It is a scientific institute for all of the country and we also have 'turismo de salud' – foreigners who are sick and come there to be cured. In this hospital there are many doctors and specialists from all over Latin America who are working there to get experience and become specialized. I am still working at the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital, but physically I am working on Bonaire.

I came to Bonaire in May 2009. There is a treaty between Bonaire and Cuba (like Cuba has with many other countries all over the world) and that's how I came here, first for two years. Then Cuba gave me one

more year. My superior at the hospital is the one who asked me if I'd like to go, and I went. Since the treaty has been going on for about 10 years I am the sixth Cuban doctor to work on Bonaire.

In Cuba I have a very good position and I like to work there, I love my job. But I always wanted to go somewhere else, to have a new experience, to get to know another culture, customs and a language. I had expectations and I was eager to go because it was the first time I'd left Cuba.

At the hospital in Havana I worked doing consults, Monday through Friday, eight hours a day, with another colleague. I only did Doppler hemodynamics echos. Everybody has their specialty. Before I did the Doppler I was sent by the hospital to work in a clinic, also in Havana, called 'Misión Milagro', where Venezuelan patients with cervical cancer were treated. I found very good friends there and it was a wonderful experience.

After having worked here at the hospital for almost three years," Rodney says, "there is no way I can compare the hospital on Bonaire with the one in Cuba. First of all, there are very few people here and the hospital is equipped in proportion to that number of people. In Cuba we are all specialized. We have very advanced medical care and here I've done everything, like I did when I had just graduated. I am the only echographer, and for the first time in my life I am working not only shifts but I also have to be available at any hour, night or day. And if they need an echo and I am not on call, they still call me. So, I live and sleep with my telephone!

Here on Bonaire, I found new friends— nice friends and charming families. I will



Rodney at his job

always carry them in my memory: Joanet and Pierro Cicilia, Carlos and Andreina, Eddy Thielman and Nydia and the Boezem family – Meneer Piet, Señora Baby, Andy, Ludi and Jimmy. I've also met very lovely and simpatico patients whom I care for very much. Then there's my Bonairean mama, Peggy Bakker, and the people of my Salsa dance group: Claudia Critelli, Marco, Joanet, Undine Nahorst, Juny, Tica, Stacey and Chantal and Leroy and Abi, who is also my dive instructor. When I leave I will miss them all, very much, because they are beautiful people.

I am a very sentimental person and this has been a very good experience for me, professionally and personally. When I think of Cuba, I feel an intense emotion because my sentiments are there, my life is there,

my family and my friends who are as important as my family – it is a strong bond. And I love the people and I love the culture – the arts, the music, the dance, the paintings, the concerts and the museums.

Every Cuban who is out of the country is looking for a better life... the life may be better... but there will always be the desire, the missing, the nostalgia, the longing... and that's how I feel when I am not there."

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra- With many thanks to Peggy Bakker for assistance with this story,





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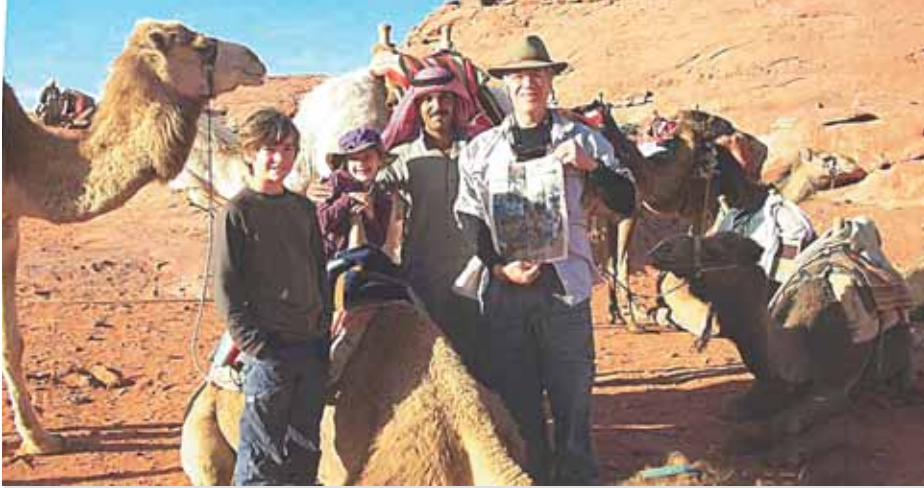




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Picture Yourself Winners with The Bonaire Reporter

**2011 Winner: Petrich Family
In Wadi Rum, Jordan.**



Here is a photo of Louis Petrich and his family with *The Bonaire Reporter* in Wadi Rum, Jordan, which is where Lawrence of Arabia used to ride on camels and hang out with his Bedouin army. In the photo is Louie Petrich (12),

Abigail Petrich (5), their Bedouin guide (Baraka), and Louis. The family lived on Bonaire 2009-2010, and the children attended Aquamarin school. Their First Prize Pasa Bon Pizza treat awaits. ■

2010 Winner: Richter Family In Antarctica.



The Richters were off island for most of 2011 and *The Reporter* was unable to give them their Pasa Bon pizza prize certificate until their return at the end of December.

But we finally caught up with them at their home/gallery in Belnem. In the photo at left Editor Laura DeSalvo presents the award, From left to right: Jake, Christyana, Bos and Linda.

The bottom photo at the left is a copy of their winning 2010 photo. Penguins look on.

The family spent two weeks in Bonaire then returned to Boston where Jake is receiving medical treatment. ■ G.D.

Picture Yourself With The Reporter in... Madison, Georgia (Voted the #1 Small Town in the USA)

Chuck & Barb Roswell, recently featured in *The Bonaire Reporter*, are shown in front of the Madison / Morgan County Chamber of Commerce & Tourist Information Office reading *The Reporter*. The Roswells were residents of Bonaire from 1966 to 1993. They live in Madison, GA. a small friendly town like Bonaire. ■

Take a copy of *The Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. You could win.



2011 Runner-Up: Jiri Lausman at Vietnam's "Hanoi Hilton."

Jiri Lausman sent his photo taken at the "Hanoi Hilton," a prison in the former capital of North Vietnam (now a museum), where mostly American pilots shot down during bombing raids during the Vietnam war were held.

It was hard to make a choice from the many 2011 entries. ■ G.D.



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BONAIRE ON WHEELS

The 99th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels." The next story will be Number 100!

Jan and Olga Felida and their Winged* Toyota pickup



Bonaire/Tras di Montaña –

One day, a couple of months ago, my wife and I drove our huge truck on the road between the roundabout near the airport and the stadium. We followed a little white pickup, registered: 1215-V. I recognized the vehicle and I passed it carefully. Then I jumped out of my car and tried to stop the very slow driving car. The senior driver was a little bit surprised. Luckily, his wife Olga, sitting next to him, recognized me. I was that gentleman from *The Bonaire Reporter*, writing about special things on wheels. Some years ago I went to their kunuku (farm) in Tras di Montaña, along the road to Rincon, to interview their son Johnnie Felida, the guy with the drab green painted Indian Jeep Mahindra! Now her husband also remembered me. This made it easy for me to ask them whether they were

in for an article about their car. And they were!

Tens of times the road to and from Rincon rolled under the wheels of my truck or my motorcycle and tens of times I passed the yellow house on the leeward side of the road: Tras di Montaña 17. And always there was this bunch of old trucks, jeeps, trailers, metal. Especially on the first of January because then the whole Felida clan visited their parents.

This week I saw the pickup again. It was parked in the shade of some old trees next to a hardware store along the Kaya Korona. In the bed: 10 huge buckets overfilled with very fertile and honest soil from the kunuku. This little white "pony" was still working every day. I parked my motorcycle and we shake hands: "J@n Brouwer", "Jan Felida. Tokai!" "Tokai?" "Tokai!" As a proud citi-

zen of Bonaire, living in a Papiamentu speaking environment for almost 17 years but not being a native speaker, I am always in for a new word or expression: *barbulètè*, *papurèshi*, *barète*. So now Mister Jan Felida introduced me to the word *tokai*, meaning namesake!

So the next day, after a phone call with Mr. Felida's wife, I drove my Bonaire blue off road to the farm in Tras di Montaña. Yes, he was at home. And no, it was not a single problem to have a talk with him. When I arrived, Jan Felida was just busy installing a battery in his little work horse. He connected the wires and protected the poles with an old and patched, but still very useful, part of an inner tube. We shake hands again. Jan Felida (77, and still going strong, grey, but not bold.) and his wife Olga (69 years of age and alive and kicking). On the 27th of January they hope to be married for 50 years. In February they hope to fly to Puerto Rico to enjoy a cruise. Parents of nine kids (Unfortunately one passed way at the age of 20/jb.) Living in the same house for 35 years, the house they built themselves. And owner of two little Toyota 1000 cc pickups. One is to be restored.

The subject of this article is running every day. This single cabin pickup was made in Japan in 1965, some 47 years ago. From a distance the car looks more or less original. But the closer you get the more wood and plaster and iron wire and electricity wire you discover. However, the thing runs and works. There is a hitch ball attached to the rear and the truck is equipped with at least three outer mirrors, one on each door and one on the right hand side fender for optimal rear view. A combination of tires of different brands is used as rubber shoes for the wheels. Four nuts hold each wheel attached to the drum brakes and the axles. The interior is spartan. A red and a green electric



Johnnie Felida and his Indian Jeep Mahindra

wire come out of a hole and follow the dash board in the direction of a button, probably a horn button. In the bed of the truck a standing up spare wheel plus tire filled with trade wind, spare oil, water, a huge saw, an old fashioned air pump, a shovel, a piece of rope and a straw hat.

Then Jan Felida starts his loyal little four cylinder. He positions it in front of his self-built house. He and his wife take their places next to their reliable truck. What's in an age? Next month they will enjoy their cruise, visiting St. Maarten, St. Kitts, Barbados and so on. Happy travelling, Olga and Jan! "Tokai!" ■ *Story & photo by Jan Brouwer*

**When you drive your car or your bike behind this pickup you may notice that during the time some stretches of iron wire are lost as the front fenders are more less than more connected to the body, feeling themselves free as a bird in the Bonairean sky making waving movements like metal wings.*



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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Budget Marine 10 Years on Bonaire



Thea Winklaar, Elgin Chirino, Pam and Peter and their daughter Elena.

WHATEVER YOU NEED... YOU'LL FIND IT THERE!

Before he opened Budget Marine, Peter Werdath was working at Harbor Village Marina as a mechanic. Harbor Village also had a marine store, the only one on the island, and Peter decided he was going to open his own store – to do it on his own. At that point somebody said, “You have to talk to my friend Robbie on St. Martin,” and that’s how it all started!

Pam Teitel, Peter’s wife and co-owner of Budget Marine, says, “It’s kind of funny because all the time in this business we have someone coming in saying, ‘Oh! I know Robbie!’ Robbie is the founder of Budget Marine. He started the business from his container in St. Martin more than 30 years ago. So, 10 years ago Peter and I flew to St. Martin, and after many meetings we became a member of the Budget Marine Group. At that time there were six stores in the Caribbean. Now there are 12. It’s quite a big group. Each of the stores is independently owned, many in partnership with the owners (Robbie) in St. Martin, and so are we.

I started out with my diving instruction background, like a boat captain, thinking I knew something about boats, but when I started here, I found out I didn’t know much about what goes on on a sailboat. People would ask me for things I didn’t even know what it was, let alone if we had it!” Pam laughs. “Peter, on the other hand, built a sailboat from scratch in Switzerland and he sailed across the Atlantic to Bonaire. Then he worked as a mechanic, so he has quite some experience in boatbuilding, repair and maintenance.

In the beginning it was just Peter by himself and then Thea Winklaar started working and she’s still here. After a few years I joined the team and then Elgin Chirino came several years ago. Our main business is local. The cruisers coming through add quite a bit to it, but our main focus is on the local fishermen, the dive shops, charter boats and local pleasure boats.

On boats sailors often use wind generators and solar panels, and we began selling them for boats through Budget Marine. But then we got more and more requests for people on kunukus and houses for alternative energy and we began doing larger systems. Since people who were busy with their house didn’t think of coming to Budget Marine, we added a trade name of Eco Power. Unfortunately, a few years later the island’s power company took the same name and only added ‘Bonaire’ behind it. Now, people often confuse us and with the bad reputation of Eco Power Bonaire we are thinking of changing our name. So, we have solar electric panels, solar water heaters (for any home, WEB or not WEB connected),

wind generators and everything else you need to put it together. Peter, who studied as an electrician in Germany, installs and maintains it.

A lot of people come in for stainless steel hardware, like nuts and bolts and screws and hinges. We also sell a lot of heavy duty cleaning stuff, wax coating, metal polishes and rust removers, and of course there’s the fishing gear and a large amount of electrical and plumbing fittings – many of those you find nowhere else on the island. Lately, with the Lion fish hunting, clear dry bags and long file knives have become very popular. We have a whole collection of knives anyway as Peter likes to collect them. We sell all kinds of knives to the fishermen, knives for the kitchen, folding knives and Swiss Army knives and...” she laughs, “the collection is growing! We sell eco friendly mold and mildew prevention, a new and unique product called Kanberra Gel. We also sell boat shoes and swim goggles. Since I coach the kids’ swim club on the island and I couldn’t find them anywhere we’ve decided to stock them. Of course there are rechargeable batteries, even one that works on solar so you can charge your phone in the sun! And there are washing machine hoses, ropes, all kinds of glues, fiberglass paints and varnishes and stainless steel hose clamps.

Another interesting product we have is a new alarm system that you can use on cars and boats, on any vehicle, and you can program it from your smart phone to call you if your vehicle moves more than the distance you’ve set. For instance, if you have a boat on the mooring it can swing back and forth without setting the alarm, but if it moves too far it will call you. And if it’s your car only one foot is too far! It has a GPS tracker built in so you can find it, and once you’ve found it – it has a kill switch from your phone - you can disable it. It will also tell you if your battery is low or the water is high. It’s a pretty cool alarm system for \$359!

Throughout the last year we’ve stayed reasonably stable. Our prices are a bit higher than on St. Martin as St. Martin is duty free, but you can always look in the catalog for references. One of the few things dropping in price on the island are the solar panels. They have a really good price, \$800 for a 200-Watt panel, which is less than half of what it was last year. But we just got a special price from our distributor, so while supplies last they’ll only be \$600!

All in all, we sell about 3,500 items in here while St. Martin has over 30,000 different things, pretty much everything that’s there in our 600-page catalog. One can also look online www.budgetmarine.com and find what you need and we can get it here in a week to 10 days!” ■ *Greta Kooistra*



BONAIREAN VOICES

in

SODIBON FIGHTS DIABETES

So many things happened last year, 2011. How many people we know have died. Unfortunately dying is something we can’t avoid; in one way or another we all have to go. But if you know you can prolong your life by taking care of yourself you will take the opportunity to do it right, isn’t that so? Diseases have overpowered our world and Bonaire is no exception. One of the common diseases here on Bonaire is the mellitus diabetes. It’s the biggest trouble maker for our Bonaireans, causing all other kinds of complications.

Thanks to the SODIBON (*Stichting Diabetiko Boneiriano*) foundation for diabetics on Bonaire people have been kept alert about this disease. Since 1991 there has been this group of caring nurses and volunteers helping diabetic people here on Bonaire. Mrs. Joyce Dennie (62), a well known trained and specialized nurse in this field, said, “Way back then, in 1991, we were helping diabetics on the island. In 2005 we got our status on the road to becoming a foundation, and on August 8th, 2007, we were officially a foundation under the name SODIBON. We have five members on the board: me, Mrs. Joyce Dennie, president; Mrs. Mavries Dissel, secretary; Mrs. Joland Anthony, Treasurer; Mrs. Silvia Marchena and Mrs. Corrie Saleh (who died at the end of last year), board members.

The SODIBON foundation’s purpose is 1. To care for the interests of the people who have mellitus diabetes. 2. Be conscious of educating people of this disease through folders and information nights. 3. To investigate the problems of this disease and exchange knowledge to help the patient and to prevent it. 4. To contribute to the mental wellbeing of diabetic patients by helping them to have an understanding of this disease so they can continue with their life.

After overcoming numerous stumbling blocks in the early years, on International Diabetic Day, the 14th of November 2010, we celebrated our fifth year of existence with the slogan, ‘Get Control of Diabetes Now.’ All countries should have a diabetic center to help their people. I started helping patients at the hospital in the emergency room. With the help of Dr. Frans, the head of the hospital, we opened a diabetic clinic



Joyce Dennie

the hospital where the specialists can send all their patients. Diabetics Association Bonaire organized information nights and the Diabetics Day with the full cooperation of MCB and the Lions Club. We are working on an integration with the Diabetic Association in Holland for better care for our people on Bonaire. In the meantime we’ve helped a lot of patients change their diet. We’ve helped them how to shop, what products they should be looking for and where. We’ve worked with the supermarket, Warehouse Bonaire, to set up a special area for diabetics where they can find all diabetic products. We have even shown patients how to cook, to change their time of eating supper -that it has to be before 7 pm. If you are taking insulin it is easier to control your life activities because you know how to inject yourself. Everything is about discipline.

Our goal is to get an office space for the SODIBON foundation itself where diabetic patients and their families can get all kinds of information and where we can hold information days. Working with professionals is very important so we hope this will bring more good for the sake of our own people. Some general advice for all people is to eat right and do exercise.”

Your health is in your own hands, so it’s up to you what you do with it. Remember life is good..

Photos & story by Sio-mara Albertus



24th Bonaire International & Local Fishing Tournament JANUARY 26-28, 2012



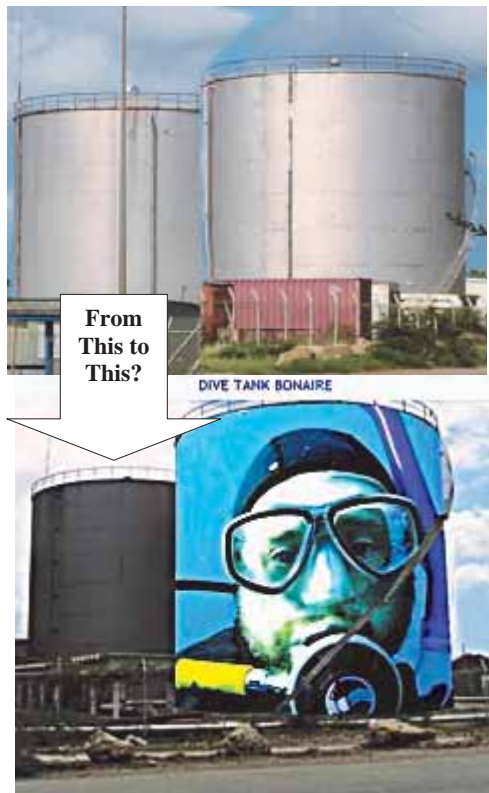
Bonaire’s International and Local Fishing Tournament (January 26-28) is for both foreign and local boats. In addition to the local Bonairean boats, many boats from Curaçao, Aruba and Venezuela are expected. You can stop in at Budget Marine or Napa for more information. The grand prize is a Toyota Hilux Pick-up Truck, awarded for breaking the Antillean record which is an 803 lb Marlin. As always, there will be a variety of trophies and valuable prizes. This year there will also be a total of US\$10,000 in cash prizes. The International class is catch and release.

Great parties Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings including BBQs, buffets, bar and music with various DJs and live bands. All of the on-shore activities are open for all to attend. Saturday will finish with a bang with the awards and a big party with live music and great food and drinks.

Boats of all sizes are welcome and will compete in two categories each for cash prizes. The larger boats are in the International division. Local division includes all types of smaller boats and local fishermen. The sign up and Captain’s meeting will take place Thursday, January 26. More information, contact Robur de Vries 786-1070/516-1070 or email info@itrainfishesbonaire.com, or Bonaire@budgetmarine.com ■



TANK ART



Dear Editor,

Recently, I had a chance to talk with one of Bonaire's resident Dutch artists, Henk Roozendaal. You may know of Henk from his flamboyant wall murals that still grace the now-defunct Cultimara supermarket. I asked him what was going to happen to the art now that the store was sold. Henk said he probably would be the last to hear about the fate of the murals.

It would be a shame to lose these wonderful paintings that brighten up downtown Kralendijk. I believe that Bonaire has great potential for displaying public art for all to enjoy, in addition to Roozendaal's murals. For instance, we now have three *rotondas* (traffic circles) that are seen by hundreds every day. But at best, they are soulless concrete confluences devoid of beauty. In contrast, our sister island, Sint Maarten, proudly displays captivating sculptures in the centers of many of its traffic circles to honor its rich cultural past. We could easily do the same.

Roozendaal agrees with me about the power of public art. Henk mentioned that in 2009 he submitted a proposal to WEB to paint a huge mural on one of its unattractive tank towers at their Hato facility on Kaya Gob. Debrot. Roozendaal offered to do this at no cost to WEB. According to Henk, he never even received a reply. Check out his design at http://www.henkroozendaal.com/kunstwerk/14205609_DIVE+TANK+BONAIRE.html

It is easy to see how public art such as this would certainly improve the facility's unsightly appearance north of town. I urge you to contact WEB (715-8244) and persuade them to accept Roozendaal's generous proposal to beautify Bonaire. While you are at it, contact the Island Council and the interim governor with the idea of having public art displays in our three *rotondas*. We are fortunate to live on an island with so much natural beauty. Perhaps it is time we

do our share to beautify the man-made structures that detract from Bonaire's wild splendor.

Patrick Holian

BONAIRE MEDICAL CARE

Dear Editor,

On December 14, the evening my husband and I arrived in Bonaire, we were looking forward to snorkeling. Coming down the steps from an above ground pool, I stumbled in my wet flipflopers and flew through the air to land on my knees. I sustained a deep long cut on my right knee. I knew I needed stitches.

We drove to your new doctors' clinic, Centro Medico Central, across from the hospital. I was immediately taken in by physician's assistant, Omaira Nicolaus. Dr. Michael Heremeliijn and Omaira cleaned me up and Dr. Michael took interior stitches and 10 exterior stitches. They could see the patella bone! I received care every other day but one when my daughter and husband changed the dressing, also. Both of the medical people were extremely kind to me. Dr. Michael took out 4 of the stitches before I left and the remaining stitches came out when I arrived home. I didn't get to do any snorkeling but did sit on a chair with my feet up, read a book and look at your beautiful blue water. I wanted to let Bonaire know what a marvelous new clinic you have. I have a three-inch scar across my knee but it is fading away every passing day, thanks to your new, wonderful clinic.

Janice Boucher
Sierra Vista, Arizona, USA

The Reporter featured a story on the new clinic in a recent edition (Ed.)

DOG WALKING

Dear Editor,

A little bit more paradise... Would it be possible to walk with my dog on the beach and swim with him from 7 pm till 9 am? During the daytime happy families with children can enjoy the beach without running and barking dogs around. The beach is for everyone isn't it? It would solve a problem and even better to bring a doggy bag for empty bottles and dog waste.

Monique

GOATS, DONKEYS AND PEOPLE

Dear Editor,

It's lovely to see the new born donkeys and little goats with their mums. Normally you see no goats from 7 pm -10 am. Most of the goats are behind the coral/fences of their owners. The donkeys walk around free, but not really and truly in freedom. They have to protect themselves from car drivers tempting them with food in order to take photos. That's why they walk on the road itself - for food - and they get hit by cars.

Dogs are very good to protect your property, but not the street where they live, from bicycles and even worse when they run after goats. Once they bite one, it's forever done with your dog's freedom. It should be leashed or chained because he will repeat it every boring moment of the day. We have enough goats, donkeys, dogs and responsible humans and have to deal with several problems. I'm sure you love your dog and you are a busy person, but still we have to solve this problem.

Anonymous

New Music School On Bonaire



Music teacher Elger and daughter Elisabeth playing guitars

Last week a new music school opened in Bonaire: *Gitaarschool Elger*. It's a private school, where guitar and violin lessons are given.

The teacher who started the school is Elger Verschuur, born in Amsterdam, and recently moved to Bonaire with his wife and daughter. Elger studied two main subjects, violin and guitar, at the Conservatory in Amsterdam and Hilversum and completed his Masters in 1997.

The purpose of the new school is to bring a higher level of musical education. There are private, duo and group lessons.

As soon as the level of the students is high enough, Elger will also form ensembles (combos). Twice a year there will be a student concert where every student will be allowed to play, even if they have not been playing that long.

Unfortunately there is no music store

on our island. That's why Gitaarschool Elger also sells classical guitars, electric guitars and accessories like strings etc. Classical guitars are also for rent for just \$10 a month.

There will be an Open Door Day every Saturday morning from 9 to 10am. During that time you may speak with a teacher for more information about the lessons, try out a guitar and Elger will give a mini-concert.

Lessons will be given for students from age five and up (no limit) on Monday through Friday starting at 2 pm. Director of the Pelikaan School Wilma Bohm-Sandig, was kind enough to give Elger the opportunity to work in her school.

For more information.
www.gitaarschoolelger.com
elgergitaar@gmail.com
Phone: 785-1408 ■ Press release



First 2012 Baby

First Baby Noëlle Bos and her parents were visited by Deputy Silvana Serfilia at their home. The Deputy presented them with a big package of goodies for babies. She wished the family all kinds of success and encouraged them to use our famous *Sentro pa hubentut i famia* (Center for Children & Parents) where Noëlle and her parents may participate in all the programs. The Bos parents offered the traditional Dutch toast, *beschuit met muisjes* ("cookies with mice").

■ Press release



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Bonaire's Classical Music Lovers Benefit Concert

Visiting Canadian concert pianist Sean Sutherland and Dutch pianist, Christiaan van Woerden, combined their talents on Saturday evening, January 7, for a special concert tribute to sponsors, donors and supporting "friends" of Bonaire's Classical Music Board. Taking a center podium with the Bonaire Piano Foundation's Yamaha concert grand in Plaza Resort Bonaire's Cacique Hall, Sutherland and Van Woerden filled the room with solo and duet recitals of works by piano composers ranging from J. S. Bach to Ignacy Paderewski; from Frederic Chopin to Louis Gottshalk.

Classically trained Christiaan Van Woerden, who is also a pediatrician with Bonaire's Fundashon Mariadal and a local resident, began the concert with solo performances of Bach's Synfonia No. 11 and Domenico Scarlatti's Sonata in b minor. Sean Sutherland followed with a stirring rendition of Paderewski's Minuet in G, Op. 14, No. 1, showing the depth of both his classical training and extensive experience in major concerts.

The piano duet that followed, a well-rehearsed four hands for Franz Schubert's Fantasia in f minor, Op. 103, D. 940, was perhaps the *piece de resistance* of the evening. The varied themes of the piece, transiting from somber to sprightly, then to intense melancholy, seemed to bring out the best in both performers.

Sutherland wound up the first half of the recital with his rendition of Franz Liszt's famed Mephisto Waltz No. 1, probably unaware of Maestro Jura Margulis' extraordinary performance of the same composition in Cacique Hall just three months earlier. Sutherland definitely held his own, performing this piece before many in this audience who should have been well pleased by the comparison.

After intermission, Sutherland again displayed his artistry in a nuanced version of Chopin's Polonaise "Héroïque" in A-flat, Op. 53, well known to and bound to be appreciated by any Antillean classical music audience. Sutherland's rendition of the more contemporary Gottschalk composition, Souvenir de la Havane, also drew hearty applause.

The Sutherland and Van Woerden duets



Extra photo
Rob van Lier of the Classical Music Board congratulates pianists: Visiting concert pianist Sean Sutherland and pediatrician pianist Christiaan van Woerden

– of Gabriel Fauré's Dolly Suite Excerpts and Benjamin Arthur's Jamacan Rumba – were lively, brightly melodic and definite crowd pleasers, drawing a standing ovation from a well rewarded audience.

The Classical Music Board's Hans Faassen wound up the evening with personalized improvisational piano tributes and thanks to each of the pianists for their benefit performance for the CMBB and its benefactors. Faassen also offered special thanks to the Board's institutional and individual sponsors, donors and "friends," noting that their efforts over the past year had brought in some \$7,000 to support live classical music concerts and events on Bonaire.

The Classical Music Board Bonaire's next concert will be held on **Saturday, February 11, at 8 p.m. at Plaza Resort Bonaire, featuring Bonairean composer and pianist Dominico Herrera and baritone Bob Kroon accompanied by pianist Lyvio Hermans.**

Tickets may be reserved on the CMBB website:

www.classicalmusicbonaire.com, or purchased beforehand at Flamingo Bookstore or Addo's Books & Toys on Kaya Grandi, at Chat 'n' Browse at Sand Dollar Plaza or at the Plaza Resort Bonaire reservation desk (\$20 in advance or \$25 at the door; \$10 for students). ■

Bob Gilmour

First IDC

Last December two experienced divers, Marc Tsagaris and Andrew Stanway, successfully passed all tests and examinations for the first IDC (Instructor Development Course) of SDI (Scuba Diving International) held on the island of Bonaire. Marc Tsagaris, born in the US, and Andrew Stanway, born in the United Kingdom, both work and live on the island. They were trained by Chris Verstappen, manager of the Dive Inn, a location of Dive



First and successful SDI/TDI Instructor Development Course
From left to right: Chris Verstappen (Instructor Trainer), Andrew Stanway, Marc Tsagaris, Jeffrey Kempff (examiner).

Friends Bonaire. The examination was in the hands of SDI Instructor Trainer Jeffrey Kempff, Manager of Wannadive. ■ Jan Brouwer

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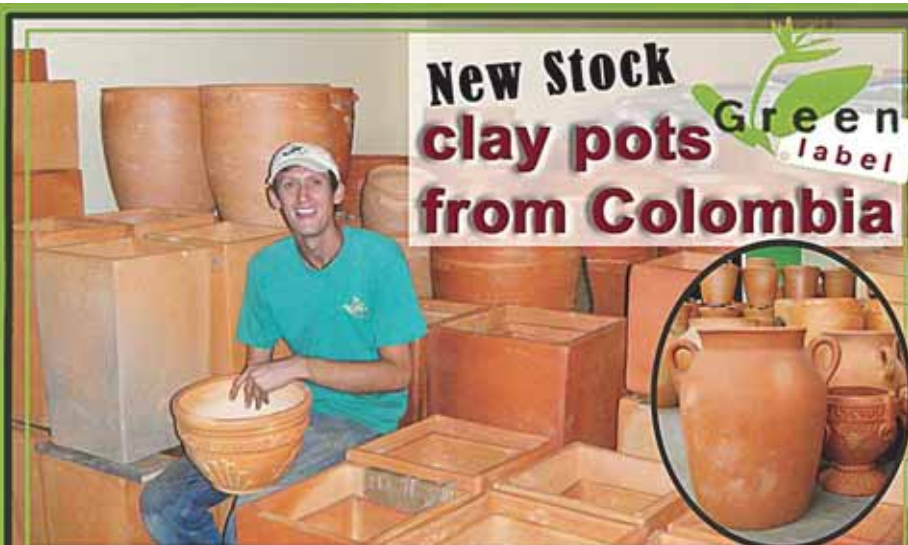
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Single Handed Around The World

By the time you read this Laura Dekker could already be the youngest person who circumnavigated the globe single-handedly! Blown ahead by the trade winds, Dekker is crossing the Atlantic Ocean. Near Fernando de Noronha, not far from the Brazilian coast, she disclosed her final destination: St. Martin where she left on 20 January 2011, almost exactly one year ago.

If the wind cooperates, she is set to make landfall around January 21 to 23.

Laura Dekker (born 20 September 1995) is a Dutch girl addicted to sailing. In 2009, she announced her plan to become the youngest person to circumnavigate the globe single-handed. At the age of 14 she started her journey with her boat *Guppy*, a 38-foot long Jeanneau Gin Fizz ketch, in Holland in August 2010. Accompanied by her father she sailed to Gibraltar from where she left single handed for the first leg of her adventure around the world.

The North Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean

On the Canary Islands she celebrated her 15th birthday while waiting for the good moment to begin the crossing of the stormy North Atlantic.

On December 3rd she started this adventure that took her 15 days to reach St. Martin. Mid January she left and set sail to Bonaire where she arrived in the early morning of February 5. *Guppy* was moored in the Plaza Marina where Laura met her grandparents who stayed in the hotel. A week later her father and sister came to meet her.

During her stay she was involved in a car accident on the road to Lac Cai. The car was a total loss but fortunately she was unhurt. Laura enjoyed her stay on our island very much but early March she prepared *Guppy* for the next leg to the Panama Canal. Via the San Blas Islands on the coast of Panama, she reached Colon at the entrance of the Canal.

The Pacific

On April 10th Laura piloted *Guppy* into the enormous locks on her way to the Pacific. So far she had covered about 7,500 nautical miles since she had left Holland, but from here she had 9,500 miles to go to Australia at the other side of this endless ocean.

It would take her not less than 137 days (4 months and 2 weeks) to reach Darwin in the northern tip of Australia. Of course many islands were visited. Often she stopped for a few days only, sometimes for a week or more but every time a mysterious voice told her to continue her pilgrimage along the islands of the South Pacific.

The first stop was at the Islas Perlas in the

Gulf of Panama to take fresh water and food, where after she headed for the famous Galapagos Islands. A trip of about 3,000 miles brought her in 17 days to Hiva'Oa on the Marquesas Islands.

Guppy and Laura then headed south to Tahiti and the atoll Bora Bora. On her way she had to pass uninhabited atolls and invisible shallow coral reefs, often during heavy rain squalls and thunderstorms that kept her awake many nights.

There was not much wind on her way to Tonga, giving her an average speed of not more than 4.5 knots while passing numerous atolls and reefs.

After a stop on the Fiji Island, *Guppy* was prepared on the Solomon Islands for the long and risky stretch to Darwin, Australia. A trip of 2,300 miles through the doldrums, a low-pressure area around the equator where the winds are often calm but the visibility poor because of the enduring rainfall. After nine days she entered the narrow and hazardous strait between the northern tip of Australia and Papua New Guinea with its dangerous reefs, strong currents and busy shipping routes. Again Laura had to be alert around the clock for five days until she was safe in the Arafura Sea.

Australia

On August 25 she arrived in Darwin, the capital city of North Australia, situated on the Timor Sea. *Guppy* was hauled out to clean the hull and to make necessary repairs under the guidance of her father who had come to assist her. Members of the local yacht club invited her to give a presentation about her trip, but most of the time she was taking her well deserved rest. A few days after her 16th birthday she decided to continue her journey.

An important decision had to be made: what would be her next port of call? Her initial itinerary was to set sail from Australia to the Indonesian island of Bali and from there via Singapore and Sri Lanka to the Red Sea, Suez Canal and the Mediterranean, approaching Gibraltar from the east. Here she would accomplish her mission because in Gibraltar she had started her world trip



Laura waves from the Guppy

when she left in a westerly direction on August 21, 2010.

Following this route, she had to cross a very dangerous region. Piracy off the coast of Somalia has been a threat to international shipping for quite a while. Somali pirates have attacked hundreds of vessels in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean region. The purpose of piracy is to get ransom money for release of the crew, ship, and cargo. Pirates' income from ransom has been estimated to be about \$238 million in 2010. Obviously Laura and *Guppy* would be an attractive and defenseless victim to these criminals. It was decided that Laura would keep her destination secret and that her blog and actual position would not be published on the Internet for a while.

The Indian Ocean

On September 23 she left the port of Darwin, keeping her followers uncertain about her whereabouts. Every four or five days a message appeared on her website, saying that she was doing well. It was a month after she had left Australia that she started publishing her blog on her website without giving away her position. One day she mentioned the low temperature of the seawater. This made it clear that she was sailing in a southerly direction, probably to South Africa. She struggled her way through windless periods, sudden squalls and heavy storms. Regularly she had to make repairs to broken tackle or torn sails. She had days that the wind came from a wrong direction, caus-

ing her not to make any headway or even drift away from her actual course. On October 28 she wrote:

"The Roller Coaster is in full swing now... but happily we did not do any loop-the-loops so far and I am feeling pretty good actually. Although I can't figure out what could be funny about being brutally bounced around, all salty-soaked and heading in the wrong direction at 3.5 knots, but...the sun is shining! Maybe I am slowly going nuts here but it just makes me laugh now each time another wave comes splashing all over. The anemometer did not drop below 40 knots since last night with 'Gup' going under storm jib only. Sailing close hauled in 8-meter tall phosphorescent waves with the wind whistling in the rigging is quite an amazing experience. It does make me realize how powerful nature is, and Guppy just rumbles right through. That is really cool! At times 'Gup' goes over the top of a wave, drops several meters down on the other side to hit the bottom with a sickening thud, and then bravely takes on the next wave... If this is to last a few more days I am sure there won't be much fun left to it any longer. But so far so good, and apart from the salty toilet water that flooded my wardrobe-closet, a snapped cable and a broken pulley on the wind vane a short while later, everything is going well. I fixed all this, so now it would seem that the worst is behind us."

Continued on page 20

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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
Fri 20		03:03 -0.10 ft	10:07 1.16 ft	18:49 -0.19 ft	23:10 0.10 ft	7:01	18:32
Sat 21		03:49 -0.04 ft	10:58 1.11 ft	19:45 -0.20 ft		7:01	18:32
Sun 22	00:30 0.12 ft	04:40 0.03 ft	11:49 1.03 ft	20:37 -0.20 ft		7:01	18:33
Mon 23	01:52 0.17 ft	05:43 0.11 ft	12:42 0.93 ft	21:25 -0.19 ft	New Moon	7:01	18:33
Tue 24	03:07 0.26 ft	07:08 0.19 ft	13:37 0.81 ft	22:07 -0.17 ft		7:01	18:34
Wed 25	04:05 0.35 ft	08:48 0.24 ft	14:33 0.69 ft	22:44 -0.14 ft		7:01	18:34
Thu 26	04:50 0.45 ft	10:28 0.24 ft	15:29 0.58 ft	23:17 -0.11 ft		7:01	18:35
Fri 27	05:28 0.55 ft	11:54 0.21 ft	16:25 0.47 ft	23:45 -0.08 ft		7:01	18:35
Sat 28	06:02 0.63 ft	13:06 0.16 ft	17:18 0.38 ft			7:01	18:36
Sun 29		00:10 -0.06 ft	06:34 0.70 ft	14:05 0.10 ft	18:08 0.31 ft	7:01	18:36
Mon 30		00:33 -0.04 ft	07:04 0.77 ft	14:57 0.05 ft	18:55 0.25 ft	7:01	18:36
Tue 31	First Quar- ter	00:54 -0.03 ft	07:35 0.82 ft	15:46 0.01 ft	19:39 0.19 ft	7:01	18:37
Wed 01		01:16 -0.02 ft	08:07 0.86 ft	16:33 -0.02 ft	20:21 0.14 ft	7:00	18:37
Thu 02		01:37 -0.02 ft	08:40 0.89 ft	17:21 -0.05 ft	21:05 0.10 ft	7:00	18:38

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April of 2010. We are looking for a young
person you may have met while hik-
ing. Please send an email to
luidolphins2@gmail.com

Karnaval Schedule

January

14 Opening, 10 pm at
El Mundo plaza
21 Jump-up, 10 pm
25 Jump-in, 10 pm
Plaza Betico Croes
28 Jump-up / Back to the 80's- The
Fancy Gems
28 10.00or-13.00or Paint T-Shirts(at
Sentro pa Hubentut i Famia)
29 Children's Election 5-7 pm SEBIKI
-Family and Youth Center

February

03 Tumba Finals in Curaçao
04 Grand Tumba Festival at Playa Sta-
dium, 8 pm to ?
05 Children's Tumba Festival at Playa
Stadium, 6 pm to midnight
06 King of Tumba Jump-up 8-midnight
10 Grand Election -up 8-midnight



11 Live Remix Mega Djump-In (Club
Vitesse) 8-pm-2 am
11 Children's Parade Rincon 4pm-7 pm
Rincon Stadium start
12 Children's Parade Playa 4pm-7 pm
14 Valentine Karnaval Fiesta Show , El
Mundo 8 pm-midnight
17 School Parade 9 am-noon at Playa
Stadium
17 Teeners Parade 7 pm-midnight
(Playa Stadium start)
18 Grand Karnaval Parade Rincon, 3
pm-7 pm
19 Grand Karnaval Parade Playa, 1 pm-
7 pm Start at SGB on Kaya Korona
20 Children's Farewell Parade 6pm -9
pm start at Playa Stadium
21 Burning of Momo, 7 pm-midnight
start at Playa Stadium

March

03 Award of Prizes, 8 pm-midnight at
El Mundo

Bonaire Real Estate Reflections

A LOOK INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL

The European and American economies have created a perfect storm to make Bonaire a wonderful buyer's opportunity market. Sellers are telling us "bring me offers. I will look at all offers. I am motivated."

Bonaire has always been a "Diver's Paradise," and now Bonaire is a "Buyer's Vacation Home Paradise."

None of us needs a crystal ball to know there are three major forces shaping and influencing real estate on Bonaire in 2012.

The first force is the economy in Holland, the European Union and the greater European zone. Those economic and political forces are very large.

The second force is the American economy. In Bonaire's real estate market, Americans are a very significant economic force. Bonaire benefits from a rising American economy.

The third force is the motivation of sellers on Bonaire. Seller motivation can counterbalance what is happening in



the rest of the world. The economic situation in Holland, the European Union and the greater European zone is not looking good. Greece and Spain have already announced they will miss the mandated 2012 budget goals by 2%. Greece acknowledges it may be bankrupt within six weeks. Some noted economists believe Spain and Italy may be bankrupt by late 2013. Bankruptcy by any of these countries may end the European Union and the common currency of the euro.

2012 predictions for Europe are that Germany may have positive growth of 1% or less. All other countries will have negative growth and be in recession. Many economists, the IMF and the World Bank have said a European recession could last several years.

An October poll in Holland showed that 67% felt they and the country would do "more poorly" in 2012 than in 2011. More recent but preliminary data shows the pessimism is growing. The political and economic climate encourages government austerity. Austerity in Holland usually means austerity for Bonaire.

The economic situation in America is slowly getting better. The rate of improvement and the overall economic and political situations are fragile. Some economists still believe there is a 30% chance for a double dip recession. Almost all American eyes are focused on Europe.

It is a presidential election year in America. Historically the economy does well in such years. At the same time the political uncertainty of the elections often offsets the real economic gains.

Property owners on Bonaire do not live in a vacuum.

They live in the real world. In fact the vast majority of vacation and upper end property owners on Bonaire are not full time Bonaire residents. Their Bonaire property is a second home. Their primary home is in Europe, especially Holland, America and Canada.

As a group these Bonaire property owners are very sophisticated, aware, and knowledgeable about financial matters and world events. Many of these property owners view their Bonaire property as a love affair with Bonaire and as an investment.

The sharp drop in the value of the euro has hurt and concerned many Europeans who own on Bonaire. They still love their Bonaire home. It just was easier to love when the Euro and their home were worth 17% more. The current Euro drop of from its all time high of \$1.54 to \$1.27 has motivated serious sellers. Talk of a \$1.00 Euro has many owners very motivated to sell on Bonaire.

As sellers become more motivated asking prices become aligned with fair market value. Buyers make offers and sign contracts when they believe asking prices equal fair market value.

With each passing day Bonaire becomes more of a Vacation Home Paradise. ■ Anna & Art Kleimer

The Kleimers are founding partners of Bonaire Island Real Estate, B.V. Email:

Anna@Bonaireislandrealestate.com



New Pickup For The Animal Shelter

Bonaire/ Lagoen –

On Saturday January 14, around noon, the Bonaire Animal Shelter officially received a very brand new single cabin, long bed, heavy duty, 2.7 turbo diesel white pickup truck from the *Nederlandse Stichting Dierenlot*. This Dutch Foundation helps animal welfare organizations in Holland and the Dutch Caribbean (WWW.Dier.nu). This utility vehicle was the 421st project of the very active Dutch foundation. The brand new truck is very visible in every day's traffic because of the "zebra" striping and graphics delivered by Gaia Productions, Image and Digital Design from Bonaire, saying, *Yuda bestianan na peliger riba Boneiru, sostené Fundashon Dierenlot*. (Help animals in danger on Bonaire, support the *Fundashon Dierenlot*).

The Dutch foundation tries to support organizations that take care of health and protect animals in Holland and the Dutch Caribbean. The Shelter employees and volunteers will use the truck for transportation

of cats and dogs, especially those who are in need of the free-of-charge sterilization project.

For a long time a reliable truck was on the list of suggested gifts for the Shelter. A lack of money was always the problem. Now the *Nederlandse Stichting Dierenlot* solved the problem with the new pickup. The Shelter will take as good care of the pickup as they do for their animals. Some hundred citizens were there when the new truck was adopted and baptized! One of the citizens suggested the truck was equipped with a "waving light"*. Read on!

THE TRUCK

The white single cabin long bed truck was produced in September 2011 and is as new as new can be. */jb*). The white work horse is fully equipped and the flat black front bumper and the artificial leather seats remind you of the enthusiasm of the vehicle to do the job. The engine is a good runner, the dashboard is complete, the odometer reads only 35 kilometers and the trip meter is reset



Shelter volunteers and staff

(by me/*jb*) on zero.

*There is just one fancy and unknown flip flap button mounted in the center of the dashboard. So I fiddle a little with the aftermarket thing. Nothing seems to happen. Then people try to get my attention: I just

engaged the orange colored Hella flashing light mounted on top of the single cabin! Congratulations, Bonaire Animal Shelter. Huge progress. ■

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer/L.D.

DO YOU SUDOKU?

To solve the puzzle, enter the numbers 1 through 9 to the partially filled in puzzle

without repeating a number in any row, column or 3 x 3 region.

Sudoku Solution

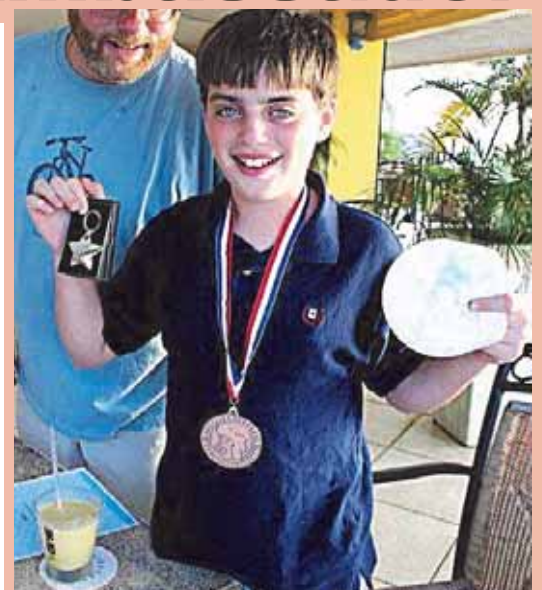
		6		7				5
			1	8				9
5		3						
	3			9		7		
	6	1				9		
	7			1		8		
		7						
			6		4	5	8	
			8				6	1

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

Young Ambassador

David Zetley from Milwaukee, WI has been coming to Bonaire since he was six months old. This is his 13th winter vacation here. He loves to windsurf at the Bonaire Windsurf Place. David was certified as a Jr. Open Water Diver last year with Dive Friends/ Yellow Submarine. He absolutely loves the food on Bonaire, especially the ravioli ("Best in the World," he says) at Capriccios. The banana waffle desert at It Rains Fishes is also a favorite.

"They showed me how to make it last time I ordered it," he said. ■ Mike Gaynor



A Question

About the New Immigration Rules Since 10-10-10

Achim Exner was the mayor of the city of Wiesbaden, Germany, for the last 12 years and now he is retired. The city of Wiesbaden has more than 280,000 inhabitants and is the capital of the state of Hessen. Achim Exner is married to Tina Woodley who is Antillean, and they've been together for 13 years. Their story is one about love and frustration: love for Bonaire and frustration about the new rules of immigration since 10-10-10.

"In my opinion," Achim says, "I find the new rules for immigration too much bureaucracy, too expensive and discriminating for all people in the European Union and they are damaging for the future development of this island."

Let me tell you first how we came to Bonaire. Tina, my wife, is Antillean. She was the first world champion in power lifting and she was the world record holder in power lifting twice. This is beside the point, but I am proud of her and I wanted to mention it. Tina lived on Bonaire 36 years ago for six years and her only daughter Sascha was born on Bonaire. Then she moved to Europe and after 30 years in Europe she decided she wanted to go back to her roots. "I could have chosen any of the six islands," Tina says, "and had I realized what a big change Bonaire is going through with Holland I would have had my doubts. But I decided to come back in 2008. And as Achim had never been here we said, 'Let's have a holiday on Bonaire.' So Achim had the opportunity to see the island."

"I can say," Achim says, "I fell in love with the island from the first moment... I have an affair with Bonaire - especially because of the people who are so friendly. But nature is also beautiful all over the island and in the sea. I conquered Bonaire on my bicycle and I rode 700 kilometers in three weeks - then I knew every inch of the island and the people knew me!"

Since 2009 Tina has lived on Bonaire. She is a resident. I still had to work part-time in Germany and I had to stay there six months a year, but I also wanted to be here for six months a year. Before 10-10-10 it wasn't a problem, but after 10-10-10 it became one.

First, I am only allowed to stay here for three months, like other people from the European Union. But now I have reduced my work in Germany and I would like to stay longer with my wife. So, I applied for residency in September 2011. I had to give them my passport, marriage certificate, birth certificate, proof of income, proof of insurance, proof of good behavior etc, etc. And I needed an apostille - all the papers have to be signed by two different German authorities. At the end of December 2011, IND - which ensures that the immigration policy set out by the government in The Hague is carried out accurately - gave me permission to stay on the island for one year, starting from September 2011, when I made the application. So, in fact, I've got nine months to spend here and to build up my life... and then?

Also, now I have to go to the census office, the office of the Bonairean gov-



Achim Exner and Tina Woodley

ernment, and they asked me for all the same papers, new ones, from Germany with an apostille. These two offices - IND and the census office - are housed in the same building and there are two meters distance between those offices. This is what I call too much bureaucracy, and I just said too expensive, because for the permit from IND I paid \$712. And now I have to pay census also. I don't know how much yet.

Now we come to discrimination of all people in the European Union and I tell you why: All people who are born on Bonaire and who have a Dutch passport are allowed to come and live and stay and work in any country of the European Union. But the citizens of the EU are not allowed to do the same on Bonaire. And I saw on Bonaire and on Statia that the infrastructure investments of millions of dollars are paid for by the European Union. So, I paid with my taxes in Germany to invest in Bonaire. That's okay, but then I think the citizens of the EU should have the same privileges to live where they want to live!

I am not working and I am not going to take any Bonairean's job! I love this island and maybe I can do something for it, but I don't need or want a job here. I still have my part-time job in Germany and my pension from when I was a mayor. My last point is that I feel the island's development is damaged by this immigration policy because people like me, retired with their own income, will spend the money they have here on the island - in shopping, in renting, in eating out, and in paying various taxes. So the island and its people are making money with me.

And I have friends who would also like to come and live here, but they are not coming because they can only stay three months. The new rules say they could stay longer after applying for a residency, but then they must buy a house of a minimum of \$250,000.- Who of that age, being in his late 60's, is going to buy a house - you rent! And if you have this amount of money you live it up with your children and grandchildren and friends. You spend it here on Bonaire and it's a big boost for the economy! These people don't need any support from the government. All they do is bring their money here and leave it here and next to the dive tourism this is a real good source of tourism for the island. For Bonaire it's an income they get from people who appreciate the island and its people.

I would love to introduce this marvelous island to people who will appreciate it without damaging it. And I think that the government should give all people who are self-supporting and in love with the island the opportunity to live here in all happiness and tranquility without having to go through all this paperwork.

I am from the European Union, I am totally self-supporting, I love the island and I am with this wonderful Antillean lady for more than 13 years and we are married. But to make a future here they gave me until September - nine months to invest in a future and to set up a life....

I have one question 'Why?' ■
Story & Photo by Greta Kooistra

DIGITAL

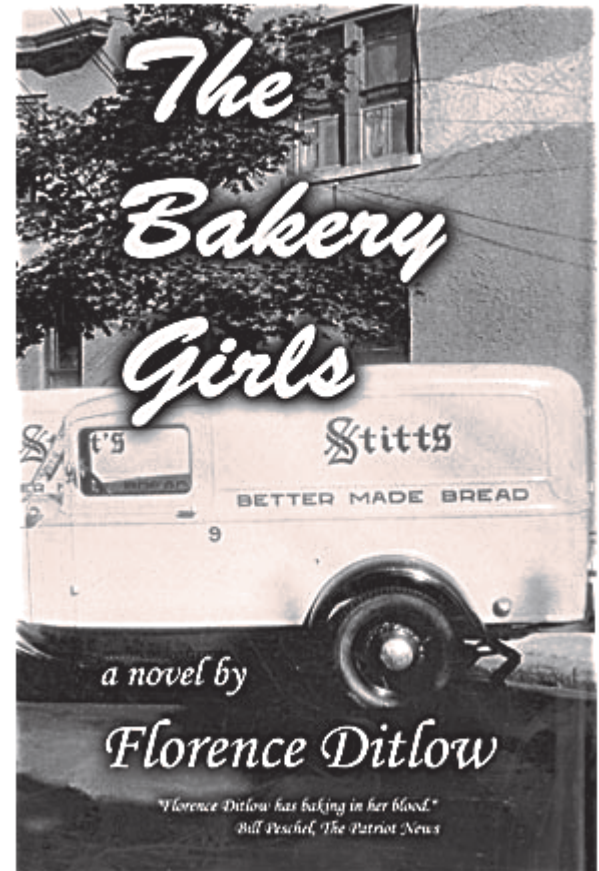
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Bonaire Author's New Novel



"The Bakery Girls" by Florence Ditlow recounts the story of three sisters working in a family bakery in the first half of the 20th century and reveals the importance of enjoying life - through a tale of three sisters.

Bonaire resident Florence Ditlow was born in Harrisburg, Pa. and when she was young she worked in her grandfather's bakery. She studied nursing and worked as a registered nurse in Washington, Knoxville, Boston and New York City before retiring in 1995. A member of the American Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor, Ditlow contributed to the textbook, "Nursing Perspectives on Humor," for humor therapy programs. Her memoir, "Long in the Tooth" (2002), explores the value of humor in chronic illness and explores complementary health practices she has studied.

Her latest book, "The Bakery Girls" (ISBN 1461079543), is a historical novel. It tells the story of the Stitt family in Harrisburg, Pa., the founding of their bakery and the three sisters, Dot, Louise and Elaine, who grow up baking wonderful bread for the people around them.

The novel follows the sisters as they grow up working in the family bakery and as each follows her own path through love and loss, learning the importance of making something enjoyable for others. Dot's early creative spark is muted by working behind a desk as the bakery manager. Louise must decide between two fiancées who could not be more different, and Elaine will sample baked goods from coast to coast only to realize that the best was her father's bread. Over the years the Stitt Bakery provides sustenance and inspiration to families through the Great Depression and two global conflicts, bringing nourishment to the town of Harrisburg.

"The story of 'The Bakery Girls' encourages readers to live a little," says Ditlow. "There will always be obstacles in life, but if you can laugh you'll be able to leap over them!"

Based in part on her own family's experiences running a bakery in Harrisburg, the novel contains evocative descriptions of the Stitt family's baking to give the reader a deeper understanding of the world of baking. Written to engage, entertain and inspire greater enjoyment of life, the novel would make a great gift for readers who enjoy lightly dramatic novels injected with humor.

"The Bakery Girls" is available for sale online at Amazon.com and other channels as well as Ado's Books and Toys in Kralendijk. ■ Press release/G.D.

Art Focus

Featuring artists exhibiting at Bonaire's Kas di Arte

THE ART AND SOUL OF RONALD VERHOEVEN

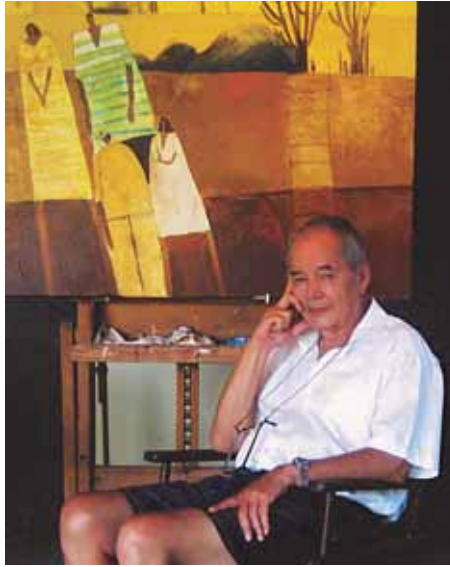
When I first asked Mr. Verhoeven if I could interview him, I remember feeling a little intimidated by his demeanor. "Not for anything," he said at that time, just because that's the aura he carries with him.

His reply, when I asked to interview him was this, "OK, as long as we talk only about art and not about my history." It took me some weeks to finally achieve this goal, and I must say I was not disappointed.

Ronald Verhoeven is the kind of artist who explores the endless possibilities within the mind, with colors that can at times be somber and subdued, and at other moments, hot and brilliant.

He seems to be somewhat of an enigma, creating works that are as illusional as they are powerful. He tells the story of how he interprets what he sees—from rocks strewn along Bonaire's north coastline to the colorful people who live here. He paints people nondescript, yet you can see in his abstract way how softly the people come into play.

Ronald's wife, Henny, has a great influence on his art he tells me, also because she too attended the school where he studied, Academy of Visual Arts Rotterdam. Often, and they both are laughing as they tell the story, Henny is invited into his atelier to see and critique his work. The one expletive which he is very familiar with from her is the word, "Bullshit," (used here with their blessing) and this encour-



The artist in his studio

ages him to revise or even start over. And in the end, Henny the muse, becomes the motivator.

As he paints he listens to classical music, which can sometimes take him into a transcendental state which is often reflected in his work. Whether it's landscapes, people or Greek mythology, he is always looking for ways to make the painting more visually stimulating, either by using different types of material or other elements that bring his art to life.

When asked what advice he would give to a new artist, his answer was this, "We need to give people the chance to not only create their art and to encourage this by teaching, but also to provide a place where art can be taught. And he states that



"Kas di Arte is the perfect spot, not only because of its location, but also because it holds a history for Bonaire and its people."

My heart was warmed by this comment, and I will say that I thoroughly enjoyed the interview and was not only inspired by his paintings, but also by the artist himself.

When the clients come into Kas di Arte and see his work, they always want to know more about the artist and his technique. Ronald Verhoeven's paintings inspire within us that primitive sense of self, a vista with no boundaries. ■

Story & photo by Sandra Johnson.

Johnson is the administrator of Bonaire's Kas di Arte, the island's waterfront art gallery. Kas di Arte is on Facebook.



Winfred Dania



Bonaire's greatly admired artist Winfred Dania passed away last Wednesday following a long struggle with cancer. Winfred was perhaps Bonaire's most famous modern artist. His Save Klein Bonaire poster design was key in getting the island protected. He was prolific and while his work covered broad subjects, he was best known for his depictions of mythological Bonaire. Winfred was born deaf in Aruba. His father was a Bonairean customs worker and his mother was from Aruba. At 17 Winfred came back to Bonaire and went to work for Capt. Don's Habitat where he learned to love gardening. In the mid 80s his artistic abilities were fostered by Frans Booi who encouraged him to paint.

Our condolences to his family. ■ G.D.
(More in the next edition)

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SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

ACCOMMODATIONS

Villa Makoshi is a fully furnished home with central air; 2 BR; 2½ Baths; 2 private & secured decks with a beautiful view; pool. www.Villamakoshi.com

AIRLINES

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

ART

Henk Roozendaal is one of Bonaire's most accomplished artists. His specialty is portraits that capture not only the spirit of the individuals but also offer a glimpse of their lifestyle.

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.



BANK

ORCO Bank offers one-on-one attention, personal banking. Each client is a person, not a number. Office in the historic building at Kaya Grandi 48.

COMMERCIAL ART

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

BEAUTY PARLOR

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

CARS AND BIKES

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

DENTURE REPAIR

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

WANT YOUR BUSINESS LISTED HERE?

Regular advertisers in The Bonaire Reporter get listed in this directory free of charge. Just one of the many benefits from becoming a Reporter advertiser. Your ad is also on line and available via Face Book.

ON & IN THE WATER

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

Carib Inn is the popular 10-room inn with dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

Dive Friends has four dive schools and three retail shops so you always get the best deals and can be assured of top notch training. Remodeled shop open now.

UNDERWATER VIDEO

ScubaVision - Pro video of your Bonaire vacation, above and/or below the water with a custom DVD by Bonaire's top videographer, Hendrik Wuyts.

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Off Kaya Industria, behind TIS.

HOME CARE

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

PHOTOGRAPHER

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

REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS

Bonaire Island Real Estate, B.V. Brings personal attention, experience and integrity to property transactions.

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



RESTAURANTS

Porto Deli - Much more than a deli with tapas and a wine bar. Fresh-baked bread sandwiches, delicious soups & salads, big burgers, top ingredients.

Pasa Bon Pizza—Bonaire's quality pizza-Best ingredients, best baking and best taste. Great salads and lasagna too. Eat in or take away.

RETAIL

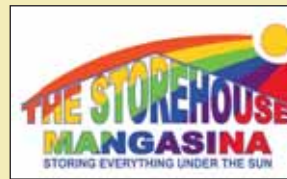
Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

SECURITY

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

STORAGE

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



SHIPPING

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



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



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SUPERMARKETS

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



More for Less

Bonaire's "boutique" supermarket with a wide selection, specializing in organic fruits and vegetables, unique products and fresh flowers from Ecuador. 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 an easy on/off built-in ramp

WINES

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

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

Restaurant on Kaya Simon Bolivar, or (2) the **First Saturday of the month**, 8 am to noon, at Kriabon, Kaya Nikiboko North, next to Aquamarin School. Krusada contact person is Kees-Jan deKruif, tel. 717-2233.



► **Bonaire's electrical supply was interrupted again early this month, but for a new reason.** According to a statement from WEB, power was lost when the wind dropped and there was insufficient diesel powered electricity to supply the island's immediate needs following several days of strong breezes. Ecopower, which supplies WEB with electricity, must review its procedures for switchover.

► **WILLEMSTAD--Curaçao's St. Elisabeth Hospital closed the intensive care neonatology (babies) unit** after detecting the "Respiratory Syncytial Virus" (RSV) there. Interim medical director Cai Winkel confirmed the report. RSV is a very common virus that causes colds. Two babies died from the virus recently.

► **The 10th Annual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon will be held on March 4, 2012.** We're telling you again so you can put it on your calendar and start training. ■ G./L.D.

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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
FRI	1/20/	Zuiderdam	0800-1700	1918	HAL
SUN	1/22/	Maasdam	0800-1700	1258	HAL
MON	1/23/	Emerald Princess	1200-1900	3100	Princess Cruises
WED	1/25/	Queen Victoria	1230-1800	1980	Cunard
WED	1/25/	Grandeur of the Seas	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/ RCCL
TUE	1/31/	AidaLuna	1000-1800	2050	AIDA Cruises
THU	2/2/	Caribbean Princess	1200-1900	3100	Princess Cruises
MON	2/6/	Azura	0800-1800	3080	P&O Cruises

Cruise Ship Calls -Information provided by the TCB

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Tuesday, Jan. 17—General Info Meeting: "A Future Kralendijk" at Jong Bonaire 7:30-9:30 pm. More on page 2

Wednesday, Jan. 18—"Future Kralendijk" - Walk-in meeting, 1:30-5 pm, DROB, Kaya Amsterdam 23. More on page 2

Sunday, Jan. 22 —Rock n' Roll Band "Back On Track" performs at the Tera Cora Ranch on Kaya Theresa Iiaro, 5 pm. Info Theo te Brinke 786-0150

Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 26-28—International Fishing Tournament. Call Budget Marine or Robur de Vries 786-1070. More on page 8.

Saturday, Jan. 28 —Farmers' Market at Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter's Garage sale location, Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café, 8 am—noon

—Annual Lora (parrot) Count. More info as it's available on *Bonaire Reporter* web page (www.bonairereporter.com) and *Reporter* Facebook page.

Saturday, Feb. 4—Farmers' Market at Kriabon, Kaya Nikiboko N., next to Aquamarin School, 8 am-noon

Saturday, Feb. 11—Classical Music Board presents Bonairian composer and pianist Dominico Herrera and baritone Bob Kroon, accompanied by Pianist Lyvia Hermans. At Plaza Hotel. Tickets:

www.classicalmusicbonaire.com, Flamingo Book Store, Books & Toys, Chat 'n Browse, Plaza reservation desk.

Sunday, March 4—Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon. Start training now!

Karnaval Schedule

See page 13

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.
- **Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market)** Last Saturday of the month at Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter's Garage Sale)(see below), 8 am-noon
- **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
- **Petanque- Jeu de Boules,** Saturdays 2.30 pm Tera Cora ranch. info: 786-0150

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

• **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 2nd and 4th

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

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

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire:

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

• **Rincon,** Kaya C.D. Crestian, in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

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

• **Sunday School,** Sundays, 4 pm, in Rincon.

• **Bible Study and Prayer meetings,** Thursdays, at 8 pm, Kralendijk.

• **New Apostolic Church:** Centro di Bario Nord 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. Debrot. 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

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

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

• **Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios):** Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am.

• **Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm.** 717-2194

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

• **Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church** located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, Republic. Services are held on Sunday mornings from 10am until 11:30am.

• **Bible studies in English** are on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

• **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:** Kaya Sabana #26, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Services (Translation to English and Papiamentu upon request)

• **10:20 Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary** held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors welcome: Call 701-9522 for information.

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

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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

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Pet of the Week

“Bert,” being hugged by Shelter manager Marlies, is a mystery dog. The Shelter staff knows nothing about his history – who his parents were, where he came from – because he was found in the *Kouchi pa Bestia* (drop off kennel) outside the gate of the Shelter. But this wire haired pup was immediately welcomed as he looks like a younger version of one of the full time Shelter resident dogs, “Charlie.” That was good news for Bert, especially when he had his check up with the vet and found to be in good health and would be put up for adoption. He’s about five months old and he should grow up to be a big dog. Another nice thing is that Bert is a mellow and very gentle dog, not in the least hyper, and would be good with children. Just looking at him and that funny face will make you smile.



ers. (So you know who to call if you lose your cat or dog.)

The year before, in 2010, there were 217 adoptions. Of the animals brought in 75% were dogs and 25% cats. Compared to 2010, this last year, 2011, there were fewer dogs in the Shelter. The Shelter staff believes this has to do with the free sterilization program. That program will continue in 2012 and they will focus more on the free sterilization of cats. ■ Laura DeSalvo

SHELTER NEWS:
This last year, 2011, 800 animals were brought into the Shelter (65% dogs and 35% cats). There were 208 adoptions and 30 animals were reunited with their own-

Happy Puppy New Year



Just to say Happy New Year we had to show you these five little puppies, some of the first to arrive at the Shelter this year with their mom. They are roly poly little guys, three females and one male (the fifth one has already been tagged to be adopted). They will probably be medium sized dogs, judging by their mother. All of them are getting the best of care, a private kennel and have been examined by the vet.

They will be available for adoption at six to seven weeks. Of course, these puppies, like all the other adoptees, are healthy and social. You may see them at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. ■ Laura DeSalvo

You Ring- We Bring

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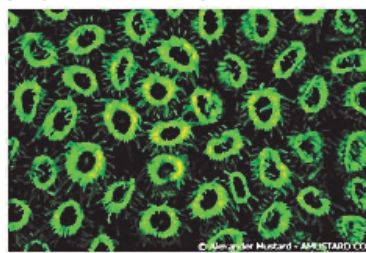
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AWC

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wine@antilleanwine.com

Did You Know...

Corals transform light to benefit their symbiotic algae?



Most of you are aware that reef corals have special algae (*zooxanthellae*) living within their tissues and that the coral and the algae have a mutualistic relationship (they help each other). We have known for a long while that the algae convert sunlight into sugars which it gives to the coral in return for a safe place to live, but the mutualism goes much farther than this. Corals have special fluorescent pigment granules in their *chromatophores* that they use to transform sunlight into different wavelengths. Under low-light conditions, mostly with deeper corals, the corals transform short wavelength light that is less favorable for photosynthesis into longer wavelength light that is more favorable for photosynthesis. The coral helps the algae to photosynthesize, which in turn benefits the coral since the algae give most of their photosynthetic products (sugars) to the coral. ■ Caren Eckrich

Caren Eckrich teaches coral reef ecology at CIEE Research Station Bonaire’s Tropical Marine Biology and Conservation program.



Parrot Progress



Bird veterinarian Jon meets one of the newly rescued Loras for the first time

The Echo Foundation, which is handling the care and reintroduction of the endangered parrots (Loras and Prikichis) that were confiscated from illegal bird traffickers months ago, will soon be focusing their efforts on releasing the birds. Recently the foundation was given permission to continue their activities in the Dos Pos area in the north of the island. The environment of the nearby area is the most hospitable to parrots and will give them the best chance to integrate into the wild bird community. ■ G. D.

What will you do on March 16th and 17th?

On March 16th and 17th 2012 NGO Platform Bonaire in cooperation with Oranje Fonds will organize BOND OET, the biggest volunteer's event on Bonaire. Form your own group of family, friends, acquaintances or colleagues to participate together and have a good time. There are many chores and activities listed for BOND OET. Choose what you'd like to do best on our website. We are going for it! Are you?

Register today at bondoot2012@gmail.com, www.bondoot.nl of 717-2366

Oranje Fonds **BOND OET**

Hasi bon, pasa bon!

NGO Platform Bonaire

COFFIE & VAN DER HOEK
ADMINISTRATION - TRAINING - MANAGEMENT - CONSULTANCY

The biggest volunteer's event on Bonaire.



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

THE ORION NEBULA: A WINTER WONDER

One of the best things about winter is that it always brings the return of one of the true wonders of the universe. On any night over the next few weeks during early evening hours look over to the southeast to see what has to be the second most familiar pattern of stars (after the **Big Dipper**), a pattern which is loaded with bright stars, **Orion the Hunter**.

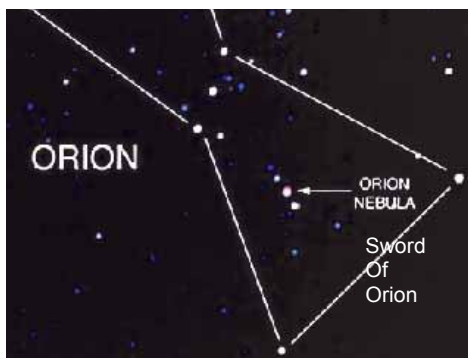
Now the best way to find him is to look for his belt which is simply three evenly spaced stars in a row. These are the stars, **Alnitak, Alnilam and Mintaka**. Above these three belt stars you will see two brilliant stars marking Orion's shoulders, **Betelgeuse and Bellatrix**. And below his belt two brilliant stars marking his ankle and his knee, **Rigel and Saiph**.

And although we usually talk about his brightest stars every January, we would like to zero in on one of Orion's dimmer stars because as magnificent as Orion's bright stars are, this one is in reality one of the most awesome wonders of our nearby universe. To find it, simply look below the three belt stars for three much dimmer stars, the **Sword of Orion**.

And now if you look very carefully at these three stars you'll notice that no matter how sharp your eyesight, the middle star always seems to look fuzzy and slightly out of focus. That's because this so-called middle star is not a star at all, but something we call a **nebula**, which is a great cosmic cloud of gas and dust out of which brand new stars have been, and are still being, born.

In fact, this nebula, the **Orion Nebula**, is a stellar womb, a birthplace and nursery of stars, a place where new stars are constantly being born. And incredibly you can see this cloud with some of its newborn stars embedded inside it with even the cheapest pair of binoculars.

This cloud is actually illuminated by four recently born stars arranged in the shape of a baseball diamond called **The Trapezium**. And these four stars can actually be seen with a department store telescope. Now although the Orion nebula looks like a tiny, Q-tip-shaped cloud through a pair of binoculars, in reality, its



size is mind-boggling.

Believe it or not, there is enough material in this nebula to produce over 10 thousand stars the size of our **Sun** and it is an outrageous 30 light years in diameter, which means it would take 20 thousand of our solar systems lined up end to end to reach from one edge of the nebula to the other.

Now let's see what the planets are doing this week, because the planets are positioned in such a way right now so that no matter what time you go outside this week, you're almost guaranteed to see at least two planets in the sky at the same time.

Just after the Sky Park sunset any night next week in the western sky you'll see **Venus**. To the upper-left of Venus, almost overhead, you'll see the largest planet in our solar system, **Jupiter**. Both are visible in the sky for a few hours after sunset. And if you go outside on January 29th, a thin waxing crescent **Moon** will be joining Venus and Jupiter.

But wait, there's more! If you go outside around 9 pm, shortly after Venus sets in the west, you'll notice that Jupiter is all alone in the sky. But it won't stay that way for long, because by 10 pm you'll see **Mars** rising on the eastern horizon, to keep it company.

And if that weren't enough planets to make you happy, go outside after midnight, and you'll spot Jupiter setting in the west. But fear not! **Saturn** is rising in the east to keep Mars company. Again, two planets in the sky at the same time, for your observing pleasure. ■

Dean Regas & James Albury

Café Astrology

February 2012

Aries Horoscope (21 March - 20 April)

February will prove to be a professional boon to Aries with an eye towards the future. There is love in the office in time for Valentines Day and a way to make yourself heard and understood for the genius you are after the 22nd. While you wait for the rewards to trickle in, be cognizant of the impact you have on friends. Are you too much of a good thing? Let's hope so!

Taurus Horoscope (21 April - 21 May)

Expand your vision this February as the push of Venus extends your reach and impact. There is a great deal of power to be had by dipping into your inner well. But don't drown in your own magnificence, Taurus; retro Saturn ties your purse strings in knots and all the charisma in the world will not pay your bills. Wait until the 22nd before you take the next big step.

Gemini Horoscope (22 May - 21 June)

Twins are not known for their passion but this Valentines month has you all hot and bothered. But you may be too hot to handle until Saturn redirects on the 22nd and controls your flame more effectively. While you wait, put more emphasis on long range goals. You can go the distance if you can pace yourself for a marathon.

Cancer Horoscope (22 June - 23 July)

If you feel especially cuddly and cocooning this February, chalk it up to a very charismatic Venus which highlights partnerships. Strengthen current relationships or develop a few new interesting ones while the Valentine's energy maximizes your charm and allure. Don't be shy, Cancer; open up your shell and let a little love inside.

Leo Horoscope (24 July - 23 August)

February delivers a package of valentines promise at every party in town. The glamour and glitz can lead you to great adventures and zesty fun. But let me let you into a secret, Lion; the greater rewards can be found at work. Try not to dissipate your energies by searching for your special someone after hours. Spend more time at the water cooler and see who strolls by.

Virgo Horoscope (24 August - 23 September)

Virgos may want to spruce up their nest this February. Venus is looking for that special someone at every party in town and you want to be ready with all the finishing touches. Put your mind to the task of love and place your professional goals on the back burner until after February 22nd when Saturn redirects. That will be the best time to show those in power what you can do.

Libra Horoscope (24 September - 23 October)

You may want to soar with the eagles but Saturn suggests that you hang around with the rest of us mortals in early February. Concentrate instead on the antics of Venus which lights a fire in your home life throughout the month. Spread valentines joy with a few close friends or around far flung family members. Bring the circle closer together.

Scorpio Horoscope (24 October - 23 November)

Passionate Scorpios can make their intentions known in no uncertain terms when Venus spices your words. But all talk and no action will lead you nowhere fast. Wait until wise Saturn redirects on the 22nd before you take love to the next step. So what if your Valentines Day is a bit quieter than usual. You will finish February with a flourish!

Sagittarius Horoscope (23 November - 22 December)

Venus glides into mercenary Capricorn this February and places a price tag on every piece of merchandise. But you needn't worry about being overcharged; Mars and Pluto make you quite a showpiece yourself and admirers will clamor to your side. After the 22nd, Saturn redirects and encourages you to select one from the pack to take home.

Capricorn Horoscope (23 December - 20 February)

Who is this superstar? Venus shines a spotlight on you this February and increases your personal stock to preferred status. Capricorns don't have to worry about attracting valentines - they will find you. As you bask in their adoration and love, you may be tempted to spread yourself too thin. Avoid the temptation while Saturn retrogrades. Pacing is everything.

Aquarius Horoscope (21 February - 19 February)

What do you divine, Aquarius? Venus ambles into your cosmic cloud this February and makes you mysterious and alluring. Be yourself and love will find you. Aquarians are on a mission to manifest their destiny and it will be more work than play until Saturn redirects on the 22nd. After that you can enjoy a bit of your spoils.

Pisces Horoscope (20 February - 20 March)

You are marshall of the valentines parade this February as Venus provides you with personality plus. Dive into the social swim Pisces and let the tide carry you to the action downstream. But be a bit discerning; You snare more valentines than you can easily fit in your net. By the 22nd you will know which one to keep and which one to throw back into the stream. ■ Annie

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Laura Dekker Around the World

(Continued from page 11)

During the second week of November she reported that she was crossing a shipping route and that she was alerted regularly by an enormous vessel a short distance away. Finally, after being at sea for 47 days, she arrived in the port of Durban in South Africa on November 13, a trip of more than 5,000 nautical miles.

South Africa, rounding the Cape!

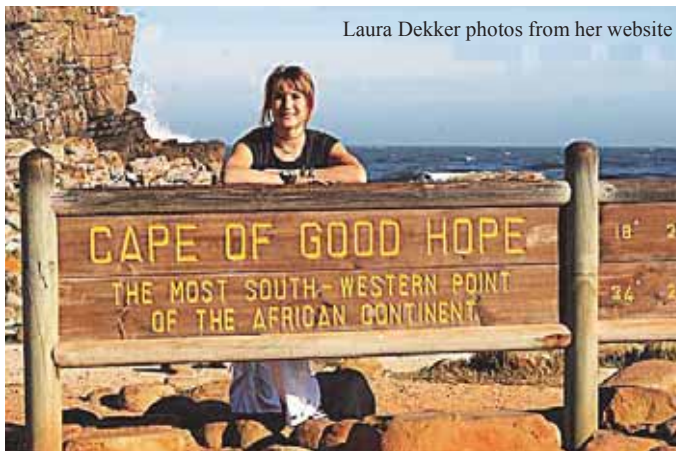
After being at sea for such a long time, Laura felt strange to be on land. She made a short trip inland and as soon the weather window seemed to be favorable, she decided to leave in the early morning of November 17. The weather was great this time and as soon as she reached the Agulhas Current, *Guppy* was sailing at a fast 10 knots, beating all of her previous speed records! The coast flew by. That is when a whale came out of the water 10 metres in front of *Guppy's* bow, scarring her terribly when the huge animal that was much longer than *Guppy* suddenly blew half the ocean into the boat. Two days later she arrived in Port Elizabeth where she made a safari trip to Ado's Elephant Park. Due to a severe storm she had to wait a few days before she could leave, but in the early morning of November 24 she decided to cast off the mooring lines and left Port Elizabeth to head west, a stretch she had been thinking of since she left Australia: rounding the most southern tip of Africa, an area called the "Seamen's Grave due to the prevailing storms.

At first the weather was good and after rounding Cape Agulhas she headed to the Cape of Good Hope. This leg was really tough. The main sail had to be reefed three times while rounding the Cape in five-metre

-high breaking waves. *Guppy* was going at eight knots under the storm jib only! The 35-knot winds that were forecast soon turned to 50 knots with at times 55-knot gusts! This was more than what the storm jib could take; it had to come down. With her now bare masts *Guppy* was still heeling heavily while they were being driven toward land. In the morning of November 27 she did manage to manoeuvre *Guppy* through the breakwaters of the harbour of Cape Town and was allowed to dock in the marina where she had to wait for some feeling to come back into her frozen fingers and toes... With her father, who had come to meet her in Cape Town, she climbed the Table Mountain and they drove to The Cape of Good Hope to see the stormy waters from the other side. *Guppy* was hauled out to have a full hull inspection.

The South Atlantic Ocean

On December 12th Laura kissed her father good bye and left Cape Town. Four days later she reported that she had caught up on some sleep, had made herself a nice and normal breakfast and had set up a small Christmas tree with lights and all. During Christmas Day the sea was rather bumpy so she had canned food for dinner instead of preparing herself a five-course meal. New Years Eve was spent with music while the shining moon and the stars were a very good trade off to the usual fireworks. On



Laura Dekker photos from her website

January 7 she crossed the equator, bringing her into the Northern hemisphere after being at Southern latitudes since she left the Galapagos, nine months ago. Once more she passed the doldrums where the speed of *Guppy* often varied as a result of the calm winds or rain squalls.

A few days ago she wrote:

"By being alone for extensive periods I have learned an awful lot about myself. I have learned about people and countries. The Pacific has given me the beautiful unknown small islands of which I dreamed about. The Indian ocean gave me a slap in the face and made me wake up. It gave me bad weather, storms, high seas but also calm periods. Guppy and I enjoyed being together during these 47 days. The south Atlantic ocean has given a mild trade wind, providing me time to look back at the wonderful trip."

This week Laura will finish her voyage. Undoubtedly there will be many ceremonies and parties during the coming weeks. She has not decided yet what she will do when this all has calmed down. In a radio inter-



view she said that it is her intention to sail *Guppy* to New Zealand where she was born. (It's rumored that she will depart St. Martin for Bonaire in February. -Ed.) She lived for her dream. Will there be another child soon to break her record? ■ Jan Kloos

Note from the author: I have been following Laura since she left Holland 520 days ago. On numerous occasions I was asked if I would have liked to see my grand daughter, who is 14 years of age, doing the same. My answer is yes! If Heather and her father would have the same sailing experience as Laura and her father have and if the voyage would have been planned as thorough as they did, I would have full confidence that she could complete her trip safely. However... I do not know whether it would survive the fights with my wife!

Author Jan Kloos is a retired commercial ship captain with vast experience. He and his wife Margreth are long time Bonaire residents.

