

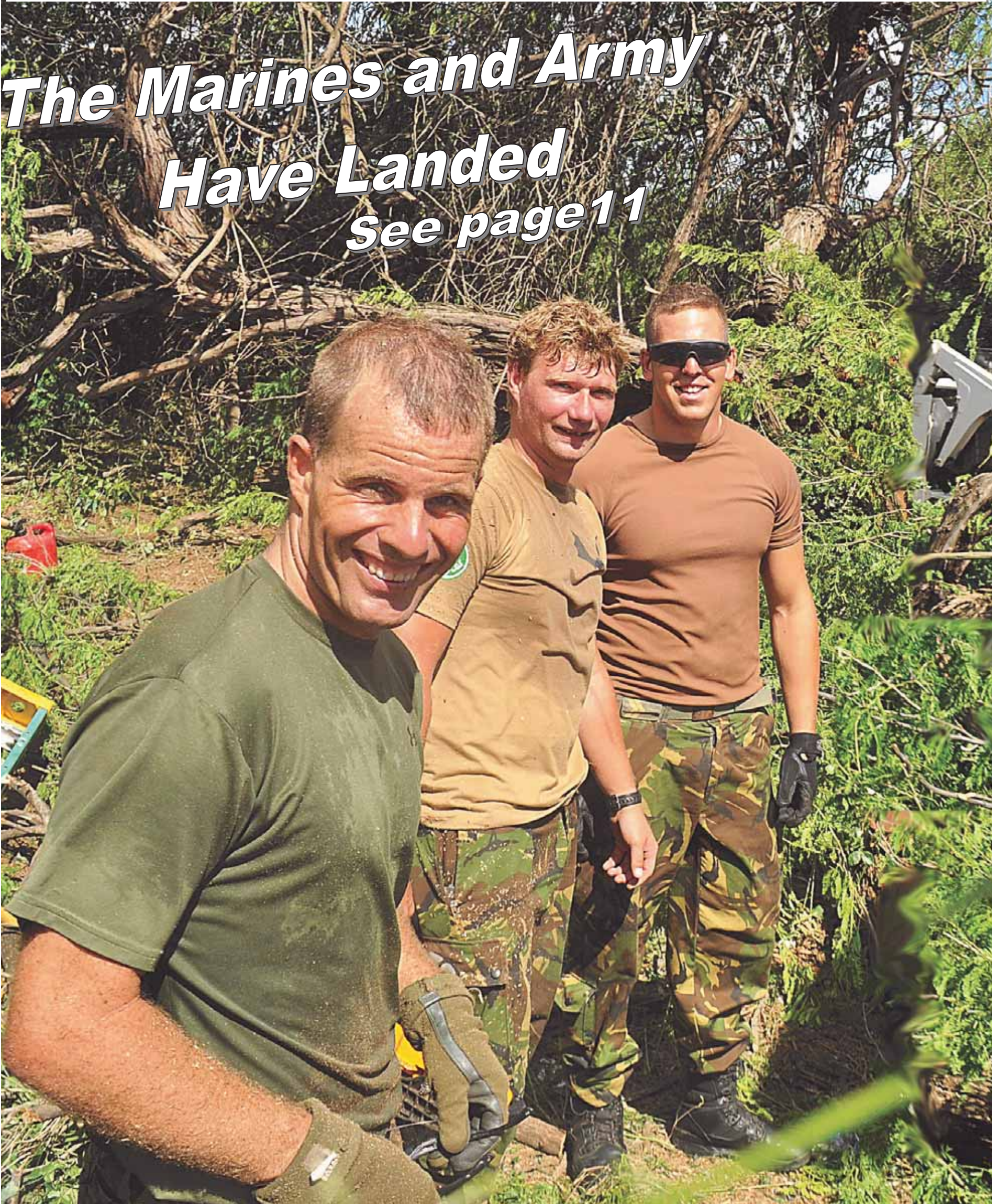
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BONAIRE February 3-17 2012, Year 19, Issue 3
The REPORTER

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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**The Marines and Army
Have Landed
See page 11**



Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER

New Island Governor

On January 27th the Dutch Council of Ministers approved the proposal of the Minister of Interior Affairs



and Kingdom Relations, Mrs. mr. drs. J.W.E. Spies, to appoint Mrs. Lydia A. Emerencia, PhD (photo) as the new Island Governor of Bonaire. She will be sworn in by RCN head, Wilbert Stolte, in the Passangrahan, on March 1st, 2012.

Dr. Emerencia, born in 1954 in Aruba, is of Bonairean descent. Her father was born in Bonaire. She has various family members living on the island. She knows Bonaire well and has been here on many occasions. She has two children.

Mrs. Emerencia has many years of experience in education. In 2010 she became the director of the Center for Research and Development at the University of Aruba. Before that she was the Rector of the same university. She has two academic degrees: a Ph.D. from the *Utrechtse School voor Bestuur en Organisatie*, University of Utrecht (UU), and a Ph.D. from the *Katholieke Universiteit* of Nijmegen. She succeeds Mr. Dr. Glenn A.E. Thodé who as of January 1st took over as the rector of the University of Aruba.

Under a new procedure several persons had applied for the position for the island governor. A selection was made from the received applications and conversations were held with the short-listed candidates that met the requirements. The trust commission that was installed by the Island Council gave a report of its findings. A central government representative made recommendations to the minister of BZK (Interior Affairs and Kingdom Relations). The appointment of the island governor takes place by royal decree. The island governor is appointed for a term of six years.

► **Bonaire's Commissioner of Education and Culture, Silvana Serfilia, regretted that the New Year started without the traditional performances of a "Maskarada" group at the residence of the Governor and in the barrios.**

"Unfortunately, the group that was to organize this had called it off at the last moment," she said at the opening of the first poetry evening

"Luna Yen" (Full Moon) of 2012. The Government cannot be blamed for the Maskarada events not going through. On the contrary, she was one of the commissioners who had actually made more financial means available to organize Maskarada.

Serfilia promised that Maskarada will not only take place at the turn of the year but also during other appropriate times.

The commissioner wants stories, riddles, poems, songs or paintings about the Maskarada phenomenon. Submit them to the Culture Department, SKAL. In fact Serfilia expressed her concern about the future of Maskarada in the form of her own poem that she presented.

► **The Bonaire Executive Council wants Bonaire's government-owned companies to show more initiative**, especially in the fields that are of fundamental importance for the local economy. Commissioner Burney el Hage (UPM) said that Flamingo Airport is sound asleep, even though at least 60% of all economic activities for the island begin and end there.

El Hage hopes to liven up things by appointing **new Supervisory Boards at various government companies**. He wants to see more from them in the first quarter.

"The airport is fast asleep," said El Hage, "while the economy of the island begins there. We will miss opportunities if we don't wake up the airport." The Executive Council has appointed a new board at Bonaire International Airport and a new board will also be appointed at Telbo to shake things up there too. The Executive Council thinks Telbo should increase its advertising and adopt a more commercial attitude.

El Hage added that **it annoys him considerably that the property of Sunset Beach at Playa Lechi is still undeveloped. The commissioner noted that at least 14 companies had shown an interest and urged Bonaire Government Buildings N.V. to speed things up and advise the Executive Council on the matter as soon as possible.**

► **Willem Cicilia (photo) will replace Norwin Carolus as Bonaire's Island Secretary.** He is currently acting secretary. Carolus, who was appointed on a temporary basis, will be asked to stay on another month for a smooth transition.



► **Based on the discussions at a recent Island Council meeting, Bonaire's roads are in bad shape and unlikely to get much**

better this year.

Why? Around the turn of the century the UPB-led Bonaire Government diverted money from its Road Maintenance Fund to the Bonaire International Airport (BIA), to expand and repair the airport. **The local government borrowed NAf 8 million from the Antilles Central Bank to do this.** They have been paying \$45,000 per month to pay off the loan. It still has three years to go.

The airport extension made Bonaire a KLM hub and reversed an economic downturn. But Bonaire's roads took a turn for the worse and it looks like things will get worse before they get better. That's because the motor vehicle license tax, previously used for road maintenance, goes to pay off the loan. (Incidentally, 2012 license tags are still not available as this is written.)

While the Netherlands central government agreed to take over many island debts as part of the 10-10-10 integration with Holland the airport loan and road maintenance was excluded.

The bad roads are costing drivers lots of money for repairs because of unnecessary damage to their vehicles. At the Island Council meeting Commissioner James Kroon promised to work on this problem.

► **Recently the tax service, Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland, sent reminders to tax debtors who have not, or not completely complied with their tax obligations in 2011. If you received a reminder and are of the opinion that this is not correct or was sent in error, please contact the Belastingdienst (Tax Service) immediately.**

You may visit at Kaya L.D. Gerharts #12, opening hours: 8 am - 4 pm (Friday: to 3.30 pm). You may also call 715 -8585. Or visit the office in Rincon at Kaya Rincon, opening hours: 8 am - 3.30 pm (Friday: 3 pm). Or call 717-6333. For more detailed information, visit website www.belastingdienst-cn.nl.

► **Prices in the Caribbean Netherlands rose dramatically in 2011** over the previous year. St. Eustatius recorded the highest inflation rate- 9.9%. **The provisional inflation rate for Bonaire was 5.4%.** For comparison's sake consider that the Dutch inflation rate over the same period was 2.3%.

Prices for food, soft drinks and transport contributed the most to inflation on Bonaire. Food prices were up 7.8% in 2011 from 2010,



(Continued on page 13)

This Week's Stories

New Island Governor	2
Beware the Camel Nose	3
Close Call-Dengue Scare	3
Round Bonaire Benefit Walk	6
Lionfish For Lunch	6
Congratulations to van Dongens	6
Letters-Kudos to Dive Friends	7
Cleanup Dive	7
The Pediatrician and His Piano Passion	8
Turtle Jklynn Back Home	9
Parrot Watch-The Bird Vet	10
The Marines and Army have Landed	11
Kamaval Schedule	12
Fishing Tournament	14
Winfred Dania Retrospective	15
Hospital Art Donation by Trudy Canwood	15
The Coral's Paint Brush	18
New Years Resolution-Shelter	18

Departments

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
On the Island Since- (Tim Peters)	4
Picture Yourself (Quito, Ecuador)	6
Body Talk-Low Blood Pressure Classifieds	9
Tide Table, Sunrise & Sunset Times, Moon Phase	12
Real Estate Reflections (Eight Key Rules for Buying Bonaire Real Estate)	13
Sudoku, Sudoku Answer	13
Shopping & Dining Guides	16
What's Happening?	17
Masthead	17
Cruise Ship Schedule	17
Do You Know-Coral Sun Screen	18
Pet of the Week (Desiree)	18
Sky Park (Orion and Venus)	19
2012 Horoscope (Astrology)	19

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Letters to the Editor



BEWARE OF THE CAMEL NOSE

Dear Editor:

The actual proposal of the Government of Bonaire to allow the construction of piers for other than the specified in the recently approved zoning plan reminds me of an old Arabian proverb: "If the camel once gets his nose in the tent, his body will soon follow."

The seriousness of this issue is something that you have to take into account if you want to imagine what the rest of your life will look like, whether you live here or are a visitor to Bonaire. If it's accepted, the Government proposal will be devastating for nature conservation and for the future of the island.

This law proposal will take the entire "conservation" effort out of the current law. More than 50 years of advanced environ-

mental legislation will go down the drain.

Developers will be allowed to build things in the Marine Park for recreation/tourism/bar and restaurant purposes. Recreation is a broad word and we don't know exactly what else can come. On the new piers, developers will be allowed to build structures up to a maximum of 5 meters high with a maximum size of 50 m². This is almost a standard 2-story building resting on a pier.

The maximum length of a pier can be 40 meters, all the way to the drop off on most of the island. The Government can allow construction up to a size of 250 m² with a height of max 5 meters. This is the equivalent of 3 to 4 small 2-story apartments!!..... in the water!!!!..... on top of a pier!!!

They (the Government) can allow piers larger than this (without describing for what purpose or in which instances), so you can expect requests to build larger piers with just God knows which structure on top or what for.

Finally, the Government can deny a request for a permit if they are of the OPINION that what will be built is damaging to the coral reef. So, no independent expert Environmental Impact Assessment will be required. Just the "OPINION" (expert?) of the Government is enough to decide if a proposal is damaging or not and therefore allow it or not.....Good-bye science.

This is serious business if passed. It is not the five piers that they have proposed now. The problem is the 25 or more requests that they have denied in the past years, with good criteria and following the guidelines and laws that they themselves approved. Those are the ones that I'm afraid of. ALL of them will come back and ask for a permit

and more will follow.....and then, the rest of the camel will be in the tent and it will be too late. We will walk our beautiful boulevard looking at the backside of restaurant kitchens, sundecks, 250 m² 2-story buildings and more. **Good-bye horizon.**

You can help to stop this proposal and keep Bonaire in the forefront of coral reef conservation where it always was. We have until February 2, 2012, to give our comments and object the proposal. You can log in at <http://www.bonaireweb.com/zoning/> and read more and download an objection letter. Be sure to clearly state what your interest is in this subject. Feel free to add or modify the letter as you wish. Print it, sign it and bring it to the DROB office on Kaya Amsterdam. If you cannot personally bring it, sign it and send it to me (marinepark@stinapa.org). I will print it and bring it for you. Be sure to bring two copies and make them sign one as proof of receipt. Let the Government hear your opinion and make your opinion count. **BEWARE OF THE CAMEL NOSE.....**Bonaire, its people and its reefs deserve better.

Ramón de León,
STINAPA
Bonaire National
Marine Park Manager



Editor's note:
If you agree with deLeon, visit DROB as soon as you read this to file your comment. Time is short!



Close Call



Interim Governor Peter Silberie, Noordam Captain Hans Mateboer; Byron Tromp, Bonaire Agent for the Noordam; Interim Hygiene (DGH) Department Head Alcira Jansen; and Commissioner Silvana Serfilia

Last week the Holland-America line cruise ship *Noordam* considered bypassing its planned port call to Bonaire. Why? A story in a Dutch newspaper said Bonaire was in the throes of a Dengue fever epidemic.

After frantic communication, the Captain was persuaded that the story was a fabrication, perhaps concocted by principals in a Dutch company whose multi-million dollar proposal to "make Bonaire Dengue free" was rejected in favor of an alternate approach.

Once in port the ship was visited by island officials to further discuss the matter. If the ship hadn't docked the economic impact to the taxis, shopkeepers and tour operators would have been significant. ■ G.D.

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On the Island Since... 1996 *Tim Peters*

“The reason I came to Bonaire was mostly because of the diving. I fell for Bonaire the way it was. In February 1996 I came here for a dive vacation. I was 28 years old and I thought Bonaire was beautiful, just great and a place I would love to be. In Holland I was working as a photographer for photo shops, mostly working indoors, but after I’d been here I wanted to become a dive instructor. I loved the diving and being out in the water. I went back to arrange everything and then I came here with hardly any luggage - ‘a jockey and a toothbrush!’

In those days, the Dutch who came to live here needed a permit and because I wasn’t yet a dive instructor I couldn’t get a job at a dive shop. So I started working as a cook at Marcel Nahr’s Rendez-Vous restaurant. I’d worked as a chef in Switzerland for two years and in Holland as well, all before I went to the school for professional photography. That’s why Marcel employed me and for me

it was a reasonable, temporary alternative. I worked only in the evenings and during the daytime I went diving. At Dive Inn I got my dive masters certificate and shortly after passed PADI’s instructor development course, and then I became a dive instructor.

I resigned at Rendez-Vous to be in a better position to be hired as a dive instructor. I got an offer from Aruba, worked there for three months, then came back to Bonaire. Aruba was a good experience.

I started as a dive instructor at Lion’s Dive – now Buddy Dive. However, as I am a passionate photographer I wanted to combine the two things. By the end of 1998 I was working at Sand Dollar Dive and Photo as a photo instructor, teaching underwater photography to tourists. Underwater photography is different. You need to have good diving skills as well as be a reasonable photographer. And there’s the fact that you’re floating in the water. It’s always close-up photography

so you have to be right on your subject because you’re taking photos through liquid instead of through air – which means a decline of color, definition and contrast. And you have to consider floating dirt particles. You must have knowledge of marine life and a trained eye as well because you have to approach your subject from a very close distance which can be very difficult. But that’s what I like about my job – to share my knowledge and passion with other people.

Around the same time, 1999, I met Annet at a party at the beach.”

“In Holland I was working for a publisher, Hebri,” Annet says. “where they made wall maps and an atlas of all the six Dutch Antilles islands. Web and Sunbelt still have one of Bonaire on their walls. I’d been working on this project, then my boss said, ‘You know what, you should see the area!’ and he bought me a ticket! I was here for four weeks, and two days before I left I met Tim.



Annet and Tim Peters and their dogs

Those last two days we spent together. I thought he was super cute. At the time there was a restaurant in town across from Exito, called ‘De Tuin’ – now Will’s Grill. De Tuin was also the only internet café in town at the time. I always saw a yellow motorbike parked in front of it. What an ugly thing it was! Well, at the beach party Tim said, ‘I’ll take you home!’ and before I knew it I was sitting on the back of that ugly yellow motorbike! Ha! ha!

After I was back in Amsterdam

we stayed in touch by mail and telephone, and three months later I came to Bonaire once again. Five months later Tim came to Amsterdam and then I decided to move to Bonaire. I had to leave my house anyway as it was going to be renovated, so I thought I’ll stay for a year on Bonaire and let’s see how it goes.... I’m still here!” *Tim and Annet are very good together. There’s a lot of respect and love between them. They’re also hardworking, down-*

(Continued on page 5)

“To me diving causes moments of intense and complete happiness.”

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On the Island Since (continued from page 4)
to-earth people who have a heart for their business. And Tim is absolutely passionate about what he's doing.

"We immediately moved in together," Tim says, "although by that time we'd known each other for a year, but physically we'd only spent one month together. It was a plunge into the deep, or - a shot at happiness. It turned out to be the second one. It all worked out and we got married in 2007."

"I wasn't nervous about it," Annet says. "It felt good, but I thought if it doesn't work out I'll go back. I came with just a few things. I didn't bring anything with me and now we're loaded with stuff! I started working at the Plaza, then Jibe City, after that Rent-O-Fun, then for Bonaire Partners and later on Sunbelt. In November 2011 I came to work with Tim." Tim smiles at Annet and says, "I do want to mention that throughout all those years you've always helped me in my business."

"Thank you. That's sweet!" Annet laughs.

"In November '99," Tim says, "the waves of hurricane Lenny came and they destroyed the Green Parrot and the photo shop of Sand Dollar Dive and Photo. Because there were no more facilities I resigned and again I became a dive instructor, this time at Capt. Don's Habitat.

To me diving causes moments of intense and complete happiness. Also, it's a privilege that you are able to do it because 100 years ago it wasn't possible. The fact that you can go down and witness the wonders of the underwater world, the beauty of it all and.... with a huge exclamation mark -

the photography - which gives it an extra dimension.

To me photography is a passion. The combination of technique and working with people: that's what I like best about it—and - in the end -the pursuit for the perfect image. It's an endless search and sometimes you come very close. That's the passion and I am ever so lucky that it is also my job.

I always wanted my own business and during my work at Capt. Don's as a dive instructor I missed photography terribly. Diving without a camera is excruciating. You're always 'obsessed' with images. It's like a non-stop process in your mind. You get up with it and you go to bed with it. The urge to create an image becomes a handicap when you don't have a camera with you.

The reason I started my own business is that I created my own market at a time when there wasn't one for photographers on Bonaire. What happened at that time - the end of the 90s and the beginning of 2000 - is that most resorts had their own photo shop with underwater photo instructors. Then the economy dropped and at the same time analog film photography changed to digital, and I guess that was the reason for many photo shops to close. Nevertheless, there was a growing market for instructors to teach digital photography because few people understood precisely how it worked. For me, the transition to digital wasn't too hard as I know what photography is about. I started with Fish Eye Photo on the property of the old Den Laman restaurant, to teach people about digital photography.

It went very well and for a period of time



Annet and Tim in front of the shop

I was the only photo shop where people could get instructions, lessons and digital underwater photography. That was how I began. Then I started with wedding photography, real estate and air photography, products and portraits. Now we are also selling and renting cameras, we do printing, we still teach, all kinds of stuff.

I began in 2002, so this year we'll celebrate 10 years! Of course there's more competition nowadays. The under water activities have somewhat declined, but on land I'm doing more and more projects. One moment I'm under water, the next moment I'm shooting a million dollar villa and then I'm up in the air. Those are things I couldn't do in Holland.

Really, what keeps me here is the diver-

sity: the job I am doing, the diving, the beauty of nature and the outdoor life style. Bonaire 'happened' to us and we've built our home here. The island has changed in many, many ways and a lot has been destroyed for the sake of the economy. I dearly wish we could still change and go for quality and eco tourism. I would love to see this island be unique in the world, with clean energy, limited construction and quality tourism. I hope with all my heart that we will still be able to take that turn." ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra-



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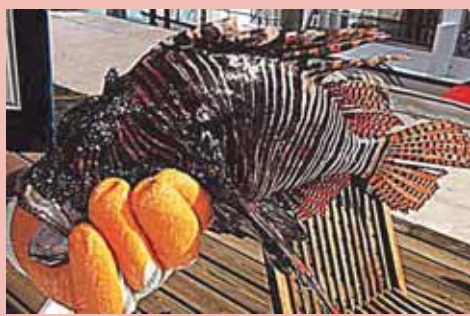
Round Bonaire Benefit



Last month Nazario Alberto, Hermando Winklaar and Felipe Melaan walked around Bonaire, 108 kilometers in 22 hours, 50 seconds, to benefit Stichting Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds (Cancer Society). During the presentation at Eddy's restaurant, the walkers received their Certificates of Completion and Sonia Alberto received a Certificate of Merit from Commissioner Burney el Haag. ■ *Marela Wanner*

Lionfish For Lunch?

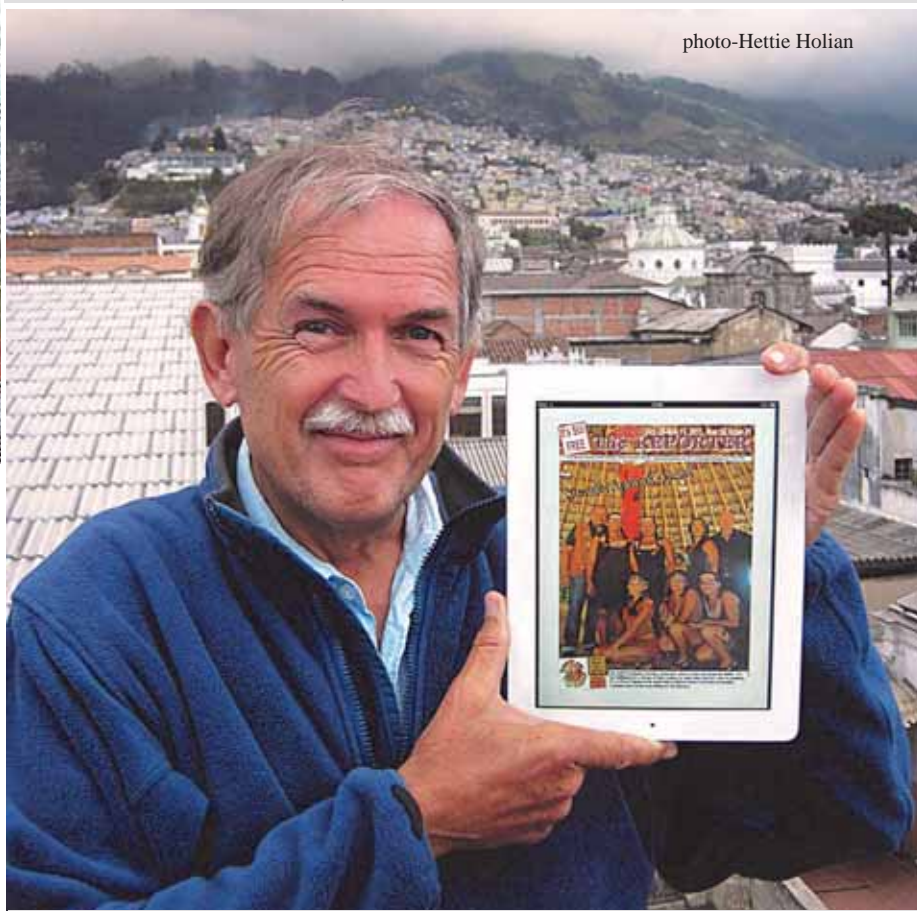
The lionfish is a member of the venomous scorpion fish family and is native to the Indian Ocean and South Pacific. First observed in South Florida in 1985, they appeared in noticeable numbers in the Caribbean and Florida waters around 2000 and have continued to breed.



There are enormous concerns that lionfish will completely change and possibly destroy Atlantic coral reefs by overrunning them and shrinking their native biodiversity, and that the ongoing damage is severe and possibly irreparable," said Dr. Mahmood Shivji, a professor at Nova Southeastern University. "The problem is escalating exponentially." However, with proper cleaning, the lionfish meat is excellent in taste and texture, and any that make it to the table means "they are no longer a threat on the reefs." They are served at several Bonaire restaurants. ■ *G.D.*

Picture Yourself With The Reporter in... Quito, Ecuador

photo-Hettie Holian



Patrick Holian shows an E-version of *The Bonaire Reporter* from his I-pad high atop the roof of Hotel San Francisco in downtown Quito Viejo. Patrick is the author of the *Reporter* series, "Sailors Who Never Left."

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Congratulations!



We all are very happy that, since their daughter Marjolijn gave birth to their twin grandchildren on January 25th, Rob and Rene van Dongen became the proud grandparent of Bo and Jolie. Lots of happiness and love for the family from all your friends of the Bonaire Veterans foundation.

P.S.: Rob & Rene, while you are still in Holland, we have already start preparing your house for the baby shower. ■ *Press release*

In the photo at left : L-R, Bastian Kuipers, Theo Knevel and Silvan Henneman

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Dive Friends Hosts Bonaire's Biggest Clean-up Dive Ever



Bonaire/Playa Lechi –
On Saturday January 21, Dive Friends of Bonaire organized the first clean up dive of the year 2012. The location was a part of the Caribbean Sea leeward of Karel's Bar. The Captain's meeting was around 10 am at Dive Friends' Yellow Submarine location. As the photograph shows, some hundred volunteers contributed to this environmentally friendly happening. (Count the faces. I stopped at the fourth one/jb.) After a quick shower and a little nap the volunteers enjoyed a pot luck barbecue. No fish on the grill.
 Loads and loads of divers disappeared into the waters around Karel's Bar to collect dust and debris and all other varieties of pollution. Other volunteers were waiting on the boulevard, ready to collect the bags containing, after counting, 1,085 glass bottles, 281 plastic cups, plates, spoons, forks and so on, 133 aluminum beverage cans, over a hundred fishing lines, two cell phones with a still functioning sim-card, computer equipment and a lot more.
 During this clean up dive attention was also paid to the Fishing Line Project, organ-

ized by the STCB (Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire), in partnership with DCNA (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance).
 Once I had the "pleasure" to go down south with STCB's Mabel Nava. The goal was to go underwater and recover the remains of a turtle which died because it was trapped in parts of fishing line and a fishing net. The unfortunate creature just choked and passed away. We tried to collect all the parts of the animal and its shell for a reconstruction, but as we all know, dead is dead. A dead end and not a single way to return. So visit the website: bonairerturtles.org and get informed by Sue Willis from the Fishing Line Project. Gloves and knives are forbidden in the underwater world around Bonaire, but a pair of pliers to cut the fishing lines is more than welcome!
 Thank you, volunteers! Thank you, employees and volunteers of Dive Friends of Bonaire. Let's add a pair of pliers to our equipment! ■ Jan Brouwer
It is amazing that after years of underwater cleanups in the same area huge quantities of trash repeatedly get recovered. Editor



KUDOS TO DIVE FRIENDS!



Dear Editor:

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we had to change dive operations after 14 years of diving on Bonaire, and were blessed to discover the joys of the Dive Friends operation. We were pleasantly surprised to find such a customer friendly, helpful, and competent operation! "Yes, we can" should be their motto because they take ownership to resolve issues with their statement, "not a problem"! They have gone out of their way to make our diving experience easy, pleasurable and even helped us with equipment issues on the spot! When the backplate of one of our old BCD's fell apart, Asko at Yellow Sub immediately stepped up and found a quick solution, fixing it with a part that works beautifully and at no charge!




*Asko Tabasko of Dive Friends
 Yellow Submarine Shop*

When one of our computers died, and it turned out to be irreparable, Chris at Dive Inn's location lent us a computer for the rest of our stay. Because we have DIN valve, high pressure tanks to fill, they have a system for filling them easily and quickly, and that is outside of the realm of their daily operation. Full tanks have been a new pleasure. We were so impressed with their operation that we also joined in their "reef clean-up day" and were again amazed at the professional organization of the project. With that many divers in the water, we were wondering if it would be a chaotic situation, but no, every part was planned and executed with safe precision.




We've both been diving for over 20 years all over the world, and have never found such a friendly, customer-oriented, professional dive operation. Dive Friends will be our "dive friends" for a lifetime, and is a true asset to Bonaire.


Diane Amos and Dee Lawrence



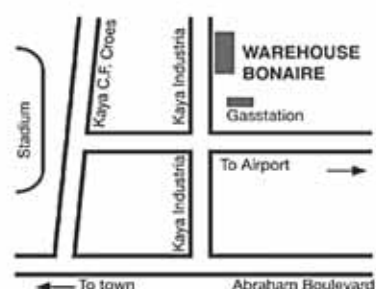
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The Pediatrician and His Piano Passion

Christiaan van Woerden

I 'met' Christiaan van Woerden a couple of weeks ago when he and Sean Sutherland were performing a classical piano concert at Plaza Resort. The concert moved me to tears and I felt immensely grateful to both pianists. As Sean was leaving the island I made an appointment with Christiaan for an interview. This is his story.

“My piano teacher, Sanja Milohanic, who had been teaching me for four years, was Croatian, and sometime during that devastating war she felt she should go back to be with her people. I was 13 and I remember her looking at me, saying, ‘But what will happen to you? You are ready for the conservatory...’

I thought ‘Jeez, am I that good?’ However, I’d just started high school and I was feeling great, didn’t want to give it up really and so I thought, ‘I’ll do something with it later.’ Sanja stayed and she went on teaching me until I was 19. Then I went to study medicine, but as I wasn’t awarded a place to study in Holland, I went to Belgium the first year. Somehow I thought, ‘It’s done with the piano...’ I didn’t see how I could possibly combine it with my studies, but I did find a piano to play. The second year of my studies I moved to Amsterdam. In 2004 I graduated as a general practitioner. I did promotion research, then I continued my studies to become a pediatrician.

In Amsterdam I was taught what it means to get the sound out of the piano as it is really a percussion instrument. I also wanted to play with others and that’s what I did in the Dutch Student Orchestra with a friend who played the cello, and duos and trios with the cello and the violin. During my studies I considered playing the piano as a hobby, but it was also something I couldn’t live without.

In 2008 I went to work for a year at the St. Elizabeth Hospital on Curacao. I couldn’t play the piano and I let it go for the time being. I did jazz dance and also I took painting lessons with Astrid van Dorp at her Art2gether atelier, and somehow the experience was like playing music. Once a month, when she had an open day, I played the piano – highlights! The year in Curacao was part of my education to become a pediatrician. Then I went back to Amsterdam, to the OLVG hospital and the AMC hospital. In the meantime my aunt had given me my grandmother’s grand piano. I lived in a minuscule apartment, but it added a completely different dimension to the playing as a grand piano is an instrument with more versatility.

But all in all, from 2007 until 2011, music has not been my mayor interest. After studying for of four and a half years I became a pediatrician on August 10, 2011. A pediatrician... because I find the development from a baby into an adult fascinating and beautiful, and health wise there are so many very interesting aspects that come with it.

September 26th, 2011, I came to Bonaire. In March 2011 I received an e-mail from the San Francisco Hospital on Bonaire saying they were looking for a pediatrician. I responded and gave them my point

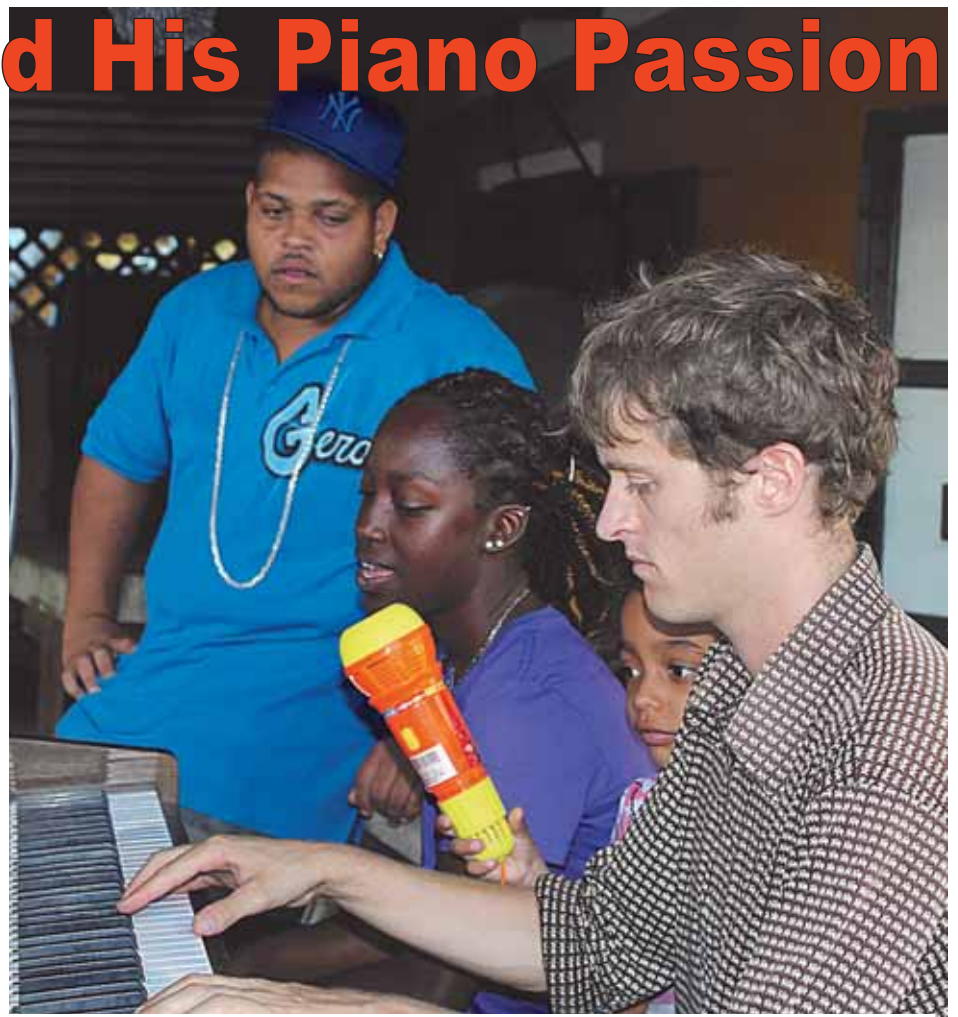
of view about what I thought would make my job interesting and worthwhile: to set up a project, to build something up and to work on something that would last for a longer period of time and, last but not least, great colleagues to join you in that.

During the time I was working on Curacao three years ago, I was on Bonaire for only one weekend, and then it was very special... because what I was looking for at that time was quietness and authenticity. On Curacao I got to know the hustle and bustle of life on a vivacious Caribbean island; Bonaire was a chance to start something new. However, I didn’t think it would go through and my ideas about Bonaire were quite uninformed. I thought I could never play the piano here or paint. The only thing I expected was I would have a great time just working.” *He laughs.* “Isn’t it a shame to think like that! How ignorant!

Well, I’d just started to work and it’s quite funny that I was able to bring my own piano for just the six months that I’m here. I am the first pediatrician to join this project called ‘Specialist Basic Care for Bonaire’ which has been set up for a period of five years by the Ministry of VWS (Health, Welfare and Sports). In 2011 the structure of the hospital was changed. Family doctors are no longer working at the hospital. Specialists from this region or from Holland are now responsible for the hospital. A group of nurses came as well, each with their own expertise. Plus other highly trained professionals like someone who’s a specialist in hygiene or safety management for example. I am posted abroad by Holland and I work on Bonaire. My responsible medical person on Bonaire is Theo Braeken (the medical manager of the hospital) and the board and its chairman, Dr. Giovanni Frans. Every fortnight we discuss with Theo how it’s going and what else can be done. There is fantastic cooperation and appreciation for each other amongst the board and the specialists.

I work at the polyclinic and I see the problems children have here. The first thing to do together with the board of Fundashon Mariadal is to see what we can do about it, and then when we get help from Holland it all comes together. This is what the project is about. It is very important for us to have the same quality of communication with Holland that we have with the board of Fundashon Mariadal. My colleague, Mechelien Rövekamp, (another pediatrician), and I have the feeling – even after the short time we’ve been here – that now we know what is important and necessary to introduce and set up on Bonaire. So together with management we are busy developing a plan to make it happen. I will be leaving in March, but Mechelien will remain with my successor who will be here for one year, and hopefully, because of this continuity, they can work out the plan we have started.

And then there is this other project. Frouwkje Smit, a Dutch community artist, came up with this idea for a project in which an old classical piano connects the original and the new residents of Bonaire. The piano travels all over the island and has a camera mounted on it. The piano



Jammin' with singer/musician Nethanja Bendt and rapper Gerald



Pediatrician Christiaan van Woerden at the clinic

itself is also the camera man. It is played by me (a new resident) and like a ‘Pied Piper of Hamelin’ it connects historical places and causes interactions and confrontations, temptations and connections between the original and new residents. The end result is a road movie which first will be shown at different locations on Bonaire, then after that on the other islands of the Kingdom. The end destination will be Holland. The whole intention of this project is to bring the different people and cultures closer together.

The first time was a try-out in all tranquility at the salt flats with Gabriel and Radjiv who lifted the piano from the pick-up truck together with nephrologists, Professor Nubé and his wife Muriël Grooteman, and Jessica de Vocht (internal medicine and infectiology) who brought the beers! Then we were at a Christmas concert at the hospital chapel along with six

people from Fundashon Mariadal. Then one day later we played on the boulevard.

People who meet the piano start rapping, playing the quartet, the tambu or start singing spontaneously. The other day I was in Rincon without the piano and at Kos Bon So they were in the middle of a reggae jam session. When they saw me they looked up and said, ‘Hey swa! Where is your piano?’

And amongst other things – this is why I came here! It’s been the first time in my life that I have been able to do so much in such a short period of time – professionally as well as with the piano.” ■ *Story & photos by Greta Kooistra*

For more info about the piano project go to:

www.ilandartfoundation.wordpress.com

Body Talk

TOO TIRED TO ENJOY LIFE, MADAM?

Are you a busy woman balancing a career, kids, husband and house and never have energy? Are you so pooped out at the end of the day that it is difficult to imagine how you can keep going day after day?

When last have you had your blood pressure checked? Have you always been told it is good when in reality it may be quite low. How often do you have muscular weakness, fatigue, dizziness, decreased libido and depression?

Let's talk about low blood pressure (LBP). There is no pill or medicine that will permanently correct this problem, yet it is one of the most common complaints amongst women.

A natural diet provides 5 grams or more of salt daily. Unfortunately too many people, including the "health fanatics" so severely restrict their salt that they do not even receive this small amount.

Na (sodium) and Cl (chloride) are essential nutrients, and there are certain patterns of metabolic imbalance that RE-



DUCE the retention of sodium chloride and large quantities are lost in frequent urination. This in turn also leads to poor retention of other electrolytes such as calcium and potassium.

Poor retention of electrolytes leads to worn out, stressed out, too weak to face

any challenges – in plain English - just pooped out!

But what exactly is the problem? The short answer is, you have 'weak kidneys'. The complete answer is that you have lost kidney control of your electrolyte balance because of a combination of stress, drinking too much coffee, tea, chocolate or caffeine and not enough protein in your diet! LBP sufferers will do almost anything for a bit more energy, yet these same people will skip breakfast or another meal and 'snack' on energy junk foods!

Caffeine (probably the best 'pick-me-up') is present in sodas, coca cola, coffee, tea (including green tea) and chocolate and is responsible for calcium loss through the urine, a mineral that is desperately needed by LBP sufferers.

As the kidney also produces the active form of Vit D, weak kidneys results in calcium deficiency, osteomalacia (softening of bones, lack of Vit D), and osteoporosis (a loss in bone substances producing brittleness).

Do you also suffer with fluid retention? Fluid retention is often associated with salt intake, yet the common problem in

people who retain fluid are those who eat too much carbohydrates. By definition, too much carbohydrate means insufficient protein. Are you having a portion of fish, meat, chicken, cheese, sprouts or eggs with every meal, 3 meals a day? Definitely not! You are too busy looking after everyone else but yourself! How many times have you said 'I am too busy to eat,' or 'I do not have time to eat'?

The simplest way in solving LBP problems is by eating! More specifically – eat protein. Stop reaching for those caffeine or sugar loaded 'snacks' – they are only making matters worse! Try eating 3 meals a day, each with protein and stay away from the fried foods, caffeine and sugars and regain your energy!

Are you up for the challenge, or are you too busy? ■ *Stephanie Bennett*

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



TURTLE JKLYNN'S SIGNALS INDICATE THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IS HER HOME FORAGING GROUNDS

It is like bumping into an old friend and finding out they are doing great! That was the sentiment yesterday when "Jklynn," Bonaire's nesting female hawksbill, reappeared on the map after 24 straight days with no signals from her satellite transmitter.

Jklynn is currently in the coastal waters of southwestern Dominican Republic at Jaragua National Park. Judging by an average speed of travel during her migration we can assume Jklynn arrived there around the 21st of December, traveling a net distance of 720 km (448 mi) in approximately 13 days. Because Jklynn's current location is consistent with her heading from the time she left Bonaire and because she has most likely been there for a few weeks we are fairly confident this is her home foraging ground. ■

STCB Press release

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Parrot Watch Update

There's so much happening for the parrot team right now! This unfortunately has meant that I just haven't had a moment to sit still and therefore write about what we or indeed the parrots and parakeets are up to. We'll have a very quick catch up now and then hopefully soon, Dear Reader, another tale of parrot adventures will follow....

Both the parrots (Loras) and the parakeets (Prikichis) are now getting close to release and Echo's vet Jon wants each individual to leave his care in the very best condition. So each and every parakeet has just had a health check and a dose of anti-parasite formula dabbed on each armpit. With nearly 50 Prikichis still waiting for release this was quite a procedure with four people assisting Jon: one person catching the jet-fighter-fast Prikichis in a proper parrot catching net, another did the dabbing of the dose, a third was note taking and the fourth redistributed the checked individual into a separate aviary. It almost goes without saying that all the birds were in fine fettle thanks to Jon's dedicated care and the support of the wonderful volunteers who help him out.

There's little to report on the Loras as they are also all fine. Two new birds arrived on New Years Eve (which had until that moment been a day off for Jon). And yet another arrived after having been

caught in Rincon. All three had been illegal pets and the first two were actually confiscated by the police. This most recent addition was an escapee, but the people who caught him noticed he had a foot problem. Having dropped everything he was doing Jon inspected the bird and removed what appears to have been hair (though I still don't believe it) that was wrapped tightly around a toe. The cut into the toe was very bad and it may not recover.

I've just realized we've been so busy that we haven't had a chance to name these three birds. What a terrible situation this is! Anyway the poor little devil was very hungry and thirsty and after being given some fluids he gulped water and food. He's a charming young Lora and is now receiving a twice daily potion of goodness from Jon and doing very well.

The reason we have been so busy and why now at 6am I am going to have to stop and get on with other jobs is because we are moving the project and all the parrots to a dream location. In a foolish effort to save pennies for the parrots the parrot team have become carpenters and we've not only built a great big release aviary, we've made shutters, doors and even door frames for our new abode. Dianne, our star volunteer from Texas who was here in the crazy first day of the rescue, is back. She was lured in by the prospect of getting to see a release. Little did she



Each and every one of the 50 parakeets received a health check from Echo's vet Jon. It was a team effort Jon having a star team of four (glamorous) assistants.

know she'd have to help build the aviary and fix the house where she'll stay before even seeing a parrot. It's been an incredible few weeks and indeed the team are as good as exhausted. But very, very soon there will be Loras and Prikichis one step closer to being free. I look forward to telling you all about it soon! ■

Dr. Sam Williams

You can check out the Echo webpage: www.echobonaire.org

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



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The Marines and Army Have Landed



SGB photo

Over 100 soldiers and students posed for a group shot at the end of the activities

Last week four platoons from the Dutch Marines and Army did some exceptional tasks on the island. They helped the Pelikaan school with transport of their new donated blackboards. They painted the buildings at Slagbaai, cleaned the yards and brought all garbage to the landfill, spruced up the de Bonairiaan restaurant of the Stichting Project, the building of the Red Cross, the buildings of the Krusada rehab center, When we caught up to them they were cleaning and painting the grounds and buildings of the SGB high school. For these projects the personnel of the Marines and the Army worked together to deliver uncountable hours of manpower. They also paid for most of the supplies to make this happen (paint etc). Local contractors, especially INPO, helped out with their Bobcat loader and other heavy equipment, donated help or their assets to make their good work a success.

There was significant interaction with students and school staff as well during the week. About 100 "spike sticks" were fabricated in the school shop and groups of students and soldiers policed the grounds spearing paper and trash. At first there was some grumbling about the job, but at the end a team spirit and pride in the improved appearance of the area totally reversed the mood.

All these community projects are handpicked by the Veterans Foundation of Bonaire. They suggest these projects to the military staff on Curacao.

If any readers have a project that might be suitable for future visits of these professional military "contractors" or if anyone has a great idea to work on together with them, they should e-mail a summary of their project to the Veterans Foundation or write to *The Reporter* at george@bonairenews.com. ■

Theo Knevel/ G.D.



The SGB restaurant, *Chez Nous*, got a good cleaning and paint job.



Spokesman, Sgt. Mike Timp with a trash spike.



Weed wackers, rakes and shovels turned a thorny overgrown SGB field into a cleared play area



The troops cleaned years of bird droppings from the floor of this building, installed protective screens and washed and painted it to convert it into a dojo for after-school activities



SGB photos by SGB coordinators Ann Leung and Gemma van der Linden

Several students talked about joining the military following the interactions



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Fri 03		01:59 -0.02 ft	09:15 0.91 ft	18:09 -0.07 ft	21:52 0.07 ft	7:00	18:38
Sat 04		02:22 -0.02 ft	09:52 0.92 ft	18:55 -0.08 ft	22:46 0.05 ft	7:00	18:38
Sun 05		02:50 -0.00 ft	10:30 0.90 ft	19:37 -0.09 ft	23:52 0.06 ft	7:00	18:39
Mon 06		03:29 0.03 ft	11:12 0.86 ft	20:13 -0.09 ft		7:00	18:39
Tue 07	01:02 0.11 ft	04:31 0.08 ft	11:58 0.79 ft	20:45 -0.08 ft	Full Moon	6:59	18:39
Wed 08	02:03 0.20 ft	06:08 0.15 ft	12:50 0.70 ft	21:13 -0.08 ft		6:59	18:40
Thu 09	02:51 0.32 ft	08:05 0.18 ft	13:49 0.60 ft	21:42 -0.08 ft		6:59	18:40
Fri 10	03:36 0.46 ft	09:54 0.15 ft	14:54 0.50 ft	22:13 -0.09 ft		6:59	18:40
Sat 11	04:19 0.61 ft	11:23 0.07 ft	16:01 0.40 ft	22:47 -0.10 ft		6:58	18:41
Sun 12	05:03 0.76 ft	12:37 -0.02 ft	17:06 0.33 ft	23:25 -0.11 ft		6:58	18:41
Mon 13	05:48 0.89 ft	13:39 -0.11 ft	18:07 0.27 ft			6:58	18:41
Tue 14	L Quarter	00:05 -0.13 ft	06:34 0.99 ft	14:36 -0.18 ft	19:05 0.22 ft	6:57	18:42
Wed 15		00:48 -0.13 ft	07:21 1.05 ft	15:30 -0.21 ft	20:00 0.19 ft	6:57	18:42
Thu 16		01:33 -0.13 ft	08:09 1.07 ft	16:24 -0.23 ft	20:55 0.18 ft	6:57	18:42
Fri 17		02:19 -0.11 ft	08:58 1.04 ft	17:16 -0.22 ft	21:52 0.17 ft	6:56	18:42

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February
03 Tumba Finals in Curaçao
04 Grand Tumba Festival at Playa Stadium,
8 pm to ?
05 Children's Tumba Festival at Playa Sta-
dium, 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 Sta-
dium
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

ing opportunities on Bonaire. If you want to use your heavenly property as your base to dive, dive and dive, there are many turnkey full-service hotel/condominium properties just perfect for you.



EIGHT KEY RULES FOR BUYING BONAIRE REAL ESTATE

It is easy to buy property on Bonaire. Compared to the rest of the Caribbean it is very easy. Bonaire also offers more value at lower cost and with fewer obstacles than most Caribbean islands.

There are eight very important keys to successfully buying real estate on Bonaire. If you are buying a second home, an investment property or a combination of the two you should follow these key rules. These 8 keys will open the door of your Bonaire real estate:

Rule # 1 Balance your emotions and rationality. Emotion is a part of any purchase. Buying in Bonaire's paradise is very emotional. A beautiful tropical island with a fabulous pristine environment, lovely people and affordable real estate is everyone's dream. You should balance your emotions with your reality.

Rule # 2 Know how you will use your Bonaire home. Does a big home on the water make sense if you will be here only two weeks a year? Does a condo make sense if your family and friends need six bedrooms?

Rule # 3 Know your limits. Are you handy? Is fixing and repairing something you enjoy or hate? Are you willing to spend a large part of your vacation fixing and repairing? If you enjoy fixing things there are some terrific buy-

Rule # 4 Know your finances. Bonaire has property for everyone. If you can afford a multi million-dollar home there are several beautiful homes that will exceed your wildest dreams. If you need or would like rental income to offset some ownership costs, Bonaire offers great opportunities. Many lovely rental properties from condos to single family homes are right on the water!

Rule # 5 Plan and prepare. Stuff happens. Bonaire has several wonderful management companies and repair people who will solve all your problems. Select your representatives before you need them so you will be able to enjoy Bonaire.

Rule # 6 Ask Questions. Bonaire is a foreign country. While most things on Bonaire are just like back home other things may be different. New found friends may or may not know the real right answers to your questions. Be wise and speak to a professional. There are many helpful people in the government who will answer your questions and give you all the information you need to know.

Rule # 7 Study, research, explore and learn. Bonaire is small and there is a wealth of information about Bonaire on the Internet. You can learn more about Bonaire on the Internet in a few hours than you can from days of driving around. Remember, anyone can post almost anything on the Internet. Verify everything.

Rule # 8 Remember to be flexible. As you learn about Bonaire your image of it may change. Remember to be

flexible. Do not try to force Bonaire or your dreams for Bonaire into a preconceived pigeon-hole. Bonaire offers so many so much. Bonaire offers wonderful real estate opportunities to everyone.

If you follow these eight real estate buying rules your Bonaire experience will be fantastic. ■ Anna & Art Kleimer

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

Anna@Bonaireislandrealestate.com



Flotsam and Jetsam (Cont. from page 2) largely due to meat prices. Transport was more expensive as a result of more expensive airline tickets. Gasoline prices also soared. Prices on clothing increased by 11% last year.

► The Foundation for Rehabilitation (Stichting Re-classering Caribisch Nederland - SRCN) is starting the use of GPS anklets for monitoring suspects and offenders on probation. This modern electronic means of control started on January 16, 2012, in Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. The new instrument will help the SRCN reduce the risks for victims and society. The GPS bracelet has been used for several years for the probation supervision by the probation office in the Netherlands.



GPS tracking system

► Be aware that, even if no official license plates are available at the Receiver of Taxes, you are obligated to display the registration number of the car at all times. The police plan to focus more on this.

► As you may know, at the beginning and the end of school hours in the Kralendijk area the traffic around the schools becomes chaotic. This week police plan to be on site at peak times to find out the best way to improve this situation. The police will follow up with a report to the governor.

► Constriction of a new elementary school in North Salina combining Kolegio Papa Cornes and the Pelican Elementary School is set for the 2014-2015 school year. It will be a "community school" to include common features such as pre- and after-school care, a gym, library, crafts room and school gardens. The two schools will share the facilities while maintaining their own identity. This keeps Kolegio Papa Cornes teaching elementary school in Papiamentu and Dutch in the

Pelican, each with its own teaching methods.

► Homes in Bonaire range from \$100,000 to several million dollars. The most expensive neighborhoods are perhaps Point Vierkant and Sabedeco, but no "official results" are published. But what's the housing market in the Netherlands? A house in Blaricum, cost an average €75,000 last year, making the town, south east of Amsterdam, the most expensive place to live in the Netherlands. At the other end of the scale, Groningen's Pekela remains the cheapest place to buy a house, with an average price of €33,000. It is followed by De Maarne and Kerkrade where the average home also costs less than €40,000. DutchNews.nl

► The 10th MCB International Tennis Open 2012 will be held on Bonaire during the Easter weekend of April 5 through 9, 2012. On-line registration is available at <http://toernooiklapper.nl/toernooi/DJBG16/>. Forms will also be available at all MCB branches on Bonaire and at all tennis clubs on the island. Drop off is at

Harbour Village Tennis Center. The tournament committee urges the players to register in a timely manner, to facilitate the organization. More information can be obtained at 599-795-5225.

► Jong Bonaire's 5th Fun Walk and Bike Fundraiser will be held on Sunday, February 5, at 6 am, at Jong Bonaire, Kaya Simon Bolivar # 16. Finish there and enjoy a light lunch afterwards. The bicycle route is longer, 37 km around the south end of Bonaire.

Adult tickets are \$12, \$6 for children under 12. You'll get lunch, drinks, fruit, a water bottle and a t-shirt. Tickets are available from DeFreewieler, Bon Bida Spa, and Jong Bonaire. Everyone, no matter what the age, is invited to participate.

► Use the Jong Bonaire Fun Walk to train for longer 10th Annual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon that will be held on March 4.

► You may pick up copies of The Reporter now in even more locations. See page 14. ■ G./L.D.

DO YOU SUDOKU?

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

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

Sudoku Solution

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



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



BOAT	ANGLER	W/LBS	FISH	LAND	BOAT	ANGLER	W/LBS	FISH	LAND	LOCAL	ANGLER	WEIGHT
RODIA I	C. GONZALES	200	SAIF	VEN	ST. MARCON	BOONAIRE	10	HA		BOAT	ANGLER	WEIGHT
SPEEDY	1. GONZALES	150	SAIF	CUR	BOONAIRE	BOONAIRE	23	KG		PARAI	E. MARTINUS	10
NAIRA	B. MANSUR	150	SAIF	AUA	BOONAIRE	BOONAIRE	23	KG		REGINA	J. THODE	23
MAWAKA	B. FOUQUAINE	150	SAIF	BON	BOONAIRE	BOONAIRE	23	KG		BOONAIRE	E. COFFI	57
NAIRA	G. FREQUENA	150	SAIF	AUA	BOONAIRE	BOONAIRE	23	KG		BOONAIRE	ROGELIO	20
NANY	R. GONZALES	150	SAIF	BON	BOONAIRE	BOONAIRE	23	KG		BOONAIRE	J. MULLER	23
SPEEDY	1. GONZALES	150	SAIF	CUR	BOONAIRE	BOONAIRE	23	KG		BOONAIRE	J. DOMAGASSE	12
MALIBET	1. GONZALES	150	SAIF	CUR	BOONAIRE	BOONAIRE	23	KG		BOONAIRE		
TIME SHANE	H. CON	150	SAIF	CUR	BOONAIRE	BOONAIRE	23	KG		BOONAIRE		
CHY REAMS	A. JESURUN	150	SAIF	CUR	BOONAIRE	BOONAIRE	23	KG		BOONAIRE		
TIME OUT	R. MARTIN	150	SAIF	CUR	BOONAIRE	BOONAIRE	23	KG		BOONAIRE		
CHACARO	J. SPECHT	150	SAIF	CUR	BOONAIRE	BOONAIRE	23	KG		BOONAIRE		
BALKAN	R. VLIET	150	SAIF	CUR	BOONAIRE	BOONAIRE	23	KG		BOONAIRE		

The blackboards (above right) told the story. Lots of Blue marlins hooked, some sailfish. Local boats caught over 200kg of food fish too.

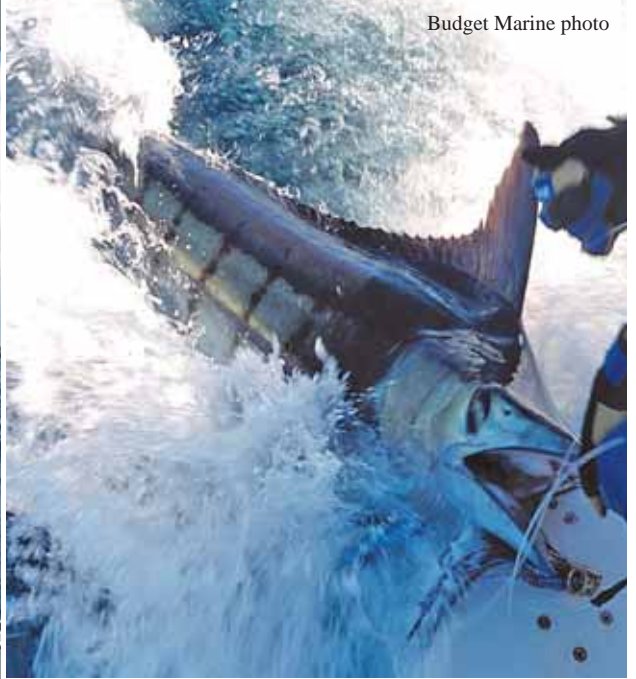
The 24th International & Local Fishing Tournament on Bonaire was held from Thursday 26th through Saturday 28th of January. Participating were boats from Bonaire, Curacao, Aruba and Venezuela. As always, there were a variety of trophies and valuable prizes. ... and \$10,000 in cash money.

Boats competed in two categories each for cash prizes— the larger boats in the International division and a local division included all types of smaller boats and local fisherman. For the larger boats it was a “Catch and Release” tournament.

Following the days of fishing there were great parties Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings including BBQ’s, buffets, bar and music with various DJ’s and Live Bands. ■ Press release/G.D.



Huub Marsman photos



Budget Marine photo

Removing the hook from a fighting fish is no easy task

- Top Boats:
- International Class
1. Naira-Aruba
 2. Speedy –Curacao
 3. Nany– Bonaire
- Local Boats
1. Rono
 2. Regina
 3. Molly M

Huub Marsman, aboard the Nany, with a nice size sailfish



Q. Where can I find The Bonaire Reporter?
A. Just about everywhere!

<p>Airport: Divi Divi Air EZ Air Insel Air</p> <p>Banks: MCB (Playa & Hato branches) Giro Bank</p> <p>Restaurants: Bistro de Paris Capriccio China Nobo City Café Deli Delight El Mundo Elle Deli Gio's Ice Cream Lilly's Ice Cream Lover's Ice Cream-Hato Pasa Bon Pizza Patagonia Porto Deli Sunset Restaurant</p> <p>Dive Shops: Carib Inn Dive Friends WannaDive</p> <p>Shops: Antillean Wine Company Benetton Botika Bonaire Botika Korona Budget Marine Chat 'n' Browse</p>	<p>City Shop DA Shop DeFreewieler Divers Discount Essentials 1-stop Health Exito Bakery Go Green Green Label INPO Island Fashions Kooyman Leen Bakker Napa Playa Trading Tung Fung store Hotels: Belafonte Bel Mar Capt. Don's Habitat Carib Inn Den Laman Divi Flamingo Eden Beach Plaza Resort Roomers Sand Dollar Supermarkets: Hato Minimarket Joke's Mini Market Lucky Market More for Less Progresso Sunshine</p>	<p>TIS Van den Tweel Warehouse Bonaire Van den Tweel Wing Cheung Supermarket Government: Bestuurscollege RCN Tax Office Building (Playa) RCN Building Customs BVO Others: Bestuurscollege Bonfysio at Bon Bida Spa Budget Marine Caribbean Laundry Centro di Medico Customs Dentist Office Von Egmond Essentials—1-stop health Extra Newspaper Office Go Green Green Label Hair Affair Harbour Village Marina Kas di Arte</p>	<p>Napa Photo Tours Rocargo San Francisco Hospital TCB Telbo UTS WEB office Bookstores: Addo's Books & Toys Flamingo Bookstore Realty Offices: Bonaire Sunshine Homes Caribbean Homes Harbourtown Realty Key Realty Re/Max Paradise Homes Sunbelt Realty</p> <p>In Rincon: Chinese Store Joi Fruit Store Rincon Bakery Rose Inn Tusnara Market And more...</p>
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2/2012

Winfred Dania -A Great Talent Is Gone



Ludo Nicolaas, Commissioner Silvana Serfelia and Hubert Vis at the memorial exhibition

ogy as part of what I create.” Winfred’s last paintings continued to be vibrant and alive until his health began failing about a year before his death. In his early years he painted at Frans Booi’s “Moon Era Workshop” and felt that it was there that he painted his best.

Winfred wanted people to understand and enjoy the mythology of Bonaire not be afraid of it. It is not



Christie Dovale admires a 3 D art piece



Self Portrait

There he learned to read, write, and lip-read. He began the laborious task of learning to speak – which he mastered after years of study. Winfred trained to become a graphic designer. His first job was the solitary work of a typesetter for a local newspaper. The work was too lonely so he next tried working for a zoo, taking care of feeding the animals.

At 17 Winfred came back to Bonaire after a short stay in Aruba. He took over his father’s old family home in Antriol and went to work for Capt. Don’s Habitat where he learned to love gardening. He was a friendly, humorous man who was most humble about his artistic gift.

Winfred Dania’s paintings hang in museums in the Antilles and in The Netherlands. His artwork is owned by collectors throughout the world, and many Bonaireans proudly display their own “Danias” in their homes.

G.D. /Maggie Booi

On Sunday, January 15, an exhibition was held at Kas di Art to honor the memory of Winfred Dania, acknowledged as one of Bonaire’s most famous contemporary artists. In an address at the exhibition his contributions to the island’s cultural legacy was acknowledged by the Commissioner for Art and Culture, Silvana Serfelia. The exhibit offered examples of his work relating to Mythology, Birthdays and Mystical Numbers, Sun and Rain, Doves, Self-Portraits, and Old Bonairean Indian Art – which has cave drawings and replicas of beautiful old Bonairean pottery – as well as a three dimensional piece. Winfred passed away at the age of 61 on January 11 following a year-long struggle with cancer.

His many paintings reflect the ever changing, intriguing, provocative and mystical dimensions of the man. He said, “I want to be painting something deep from within myself, but I will remain painting mythol-



Elephant from the 10/10/10 exhibition

black magic, not voodoo. It is the stories of Boynay, the mythological first Bonairean, and the stories of Uncle Louis that are most prominent in his mythology paintings.

But his work had more direct influence as well. Following his first snorkel trip on Klein Bonaire in 1996 he created the Save Klein Bonaire poster design which was a key in getting the recognition needed to get

the small island protected from development.

“I have no goal when I start a painting. I just take the colors and play with them on canvas. Then I look a long time at what I did and discover new forms and new color combinations; then I follow my feelings.” This is all normal, spontaneous and simple. Not having to be afraid of the forms – just free giving of the forms.

Winfred was born deaf in Aruba. His father was a Bonairean customs worker and his mother was from Aruba. At the age of 4 he went to St Michael’s School for the Deaf in The Netherlands. At St Michael’s there was an enormous gold angel on top of the tower, and two large, powerful, gold lions on balls flanked the gate. He watched that angel every day and understood her mystical power. He grew up as a humble Bonairean with the richness of Europe all around him..

Art Donation to Hospital



Trudy Canwood, an artist who recently exhibited at Kas di Arte, donated three of her paintings to the hospital’s Children’s Ward. Pictured R.to L. Giovanni Frans, head of Mariadal; Dr. Theo Oud, psychologist, psychotherapist; artist Trudy Canwood; Dr Mechelien Rovekamp, pediatrician; Sandra Johnson of Kas di Arte.

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SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

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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.

BEAUTY PARLOR

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HOME CARE

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RESTAURANTS

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

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.

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

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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

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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
THU	2/2/	Caribbean Princess	1200-1900	3100	Princess Cruises
MON	2/6/	Azura	0800-1800	3080	P&O Cruises
THU	2/9/	Noordam	0800-1700	1918	HAL
FRI	2/10/	Zuiderdam	0800-1700	1918	HAL
FRI	2/10/	Grandeur of the Seas	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
TUE	2/14/	AidaLuna	1000-1800	2050	AIDA Cruises
WED	2/15/	Grandeur of the Seas	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
THU	2/16/	Caribbean Princess	1200-1900	3100	Princess Cruises

Cruise Ship Calls -Information provided by the TCB

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Complete Karnaval schedule on page 12

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

Sunday, February 5—Jong Bonaire 5th Fun Walk & Bike Fundraiser. Starts at 6 am at Jong Bonaire. See page 13 for more information.

Saturday, Feb. 11—Classical Music Board presents Bonairean composer & pianist Dominico Herrera & 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, February 19th - Kaminda di Arte. Visit 14 different artists in their studios and homes, 11am-5 pm. Find maps at Bon Bida Spa, book stores, TCB website. More in the next edition of *The Reporter*.

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

Friday & Saturday, March 16-17—Bon Doet Volunteer Event. More on page 18.

April 5—9 -10th MCB International Tennis Open, Harbour Village Tennis Center. Details on 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 Pajago 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, Republiek. Services are held on Sunday mornings from 10am until 11:30am. Bible studies in English are on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

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

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

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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

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Pet of the Week

Long, lean and lovely are just a few of the many attributes of "Desiree." She is a beautiful chocolate and coffee striped cat with pure white arms, chest and belly. She is long and tall and a very slender almost delicate cat. The distinctive markings on her face give her the perpetual look of a kitten, and she proudly wears a beautiful striped medallion right in the middle of her white chest. Desiree is about a year and a half old and more than willing to be a loving companion. She gently rubs against you to get your attention and then sits and waits for your invitation to sit on your lap and be stroked. When "cuddle time" is over, she's off to her toys and jumps and plays like a young kitten. Desiree is certain to be the delight and heart's desire of the lucky human that takes her home.



Desiree

Remember, all the pets up for adoption are healthy and totally social. In addition to being checked out by the vet, given their shots, wormed, the cats have been tested for feline leukemia. You can always be assured of the best animal when you adopt from the Bonaire Animal Shelter. The Shelter on the Lagoen Road is open Monday through Saturday, 9am-1pm and 3 to 5pm. Tel. 717-4989 Website: www.bonaireanimalshelter.com ■ Jane Madden-Disko/ Laura DeSalvo

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Give a Hand to the Shelter—and have fun doing it!

We may be well into the new year but it's never too late to make some New Year resolutions—in this case how you may help the Bonaire Animal Shelter.

Dog and cat care is the priority at the Shelter so **volunteers** are very welcome to help with the **socializing, feeding and cleaning. Handypersons, gardeners and people to help at the Pakus di Pruga (weekly Saturday flea market) at the cruise ship market** are all very much appreciated. If you can work on a weekly basis that would be great, but if you only have time on a fortnightly or monthly basis that's good too. And the best part is that you're working with a fun group of people and very appreciative pets!

You say you have more money than time? Any **monetary donation** to help keep the Shelter programs operating is appreciated. There are Shelter donation boxes in shops around town—for cash or checks.

Americans may use "Support Bonaire: to donate and claim charitable deductions on their American income tax. You may use your credit card.

Monetary donations via Bank transfer to Maduro & Curiel's Bank account #102.378.00 or RBTT bank account #23.10.139.

Are you a visitor on the island and missing your pet(s). Then come on down to the Shelter where you will be welcomed by the staff and the pets. Come to socialize and get your "pet fix." Others have done it and declared it to be one of the best times they spent on the island! ■ Laura DeSalvo

Pakus di Pruga
Animal Shelter
Bonaire

Did You Know...

That corals and their symbiotic algae must protect themselves from sunburns?

In the last issue I wrote about an adaptation that some deep corals have in low-light conditions. Now I will describe some adaptations that both corals and their symbiotic algae have developed to deal with high-light conditions.

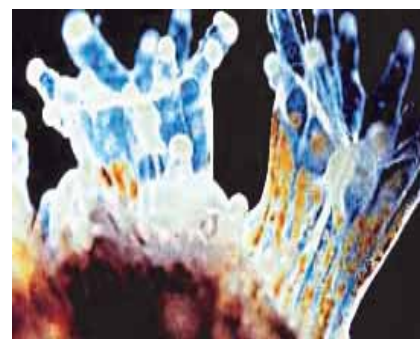
It's truly amazing at how intricate living organisms are, especially those living in a mutualistic symbiosis. Many coral species thrive in shallow waters. However, life in the tropics can be harsh and at times high-light conditions damage both coral and algae tissues. Remember the pigment granules that I wrote about in the last issue? Well, shallow corals also have pigments, but instead of transforming the wavelengths, these pigments absorb and reflect much of the damaging light wavelengths (UVAs).

Here's where it gets really interesting. The symbiotic algae, zooxanthellae, also are thought to produce sunscreen (termed MAAs) that block the damaging light wavelengths (UVBs) that the coral's pigment don't! Together, the coral and its symbiotic algae effectively avoid damaging UV rays. ■ Caren Eckrich

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



The Coral's Paint Brush



Most reef-building corals have a symbiotic relationship with photosynthetic algae, called zooxanthellae ("zo-ah-zan-THELL-ee"), which live in their gastrodermis (digestive cell) tissue. The zooxanthellae, like all plants, convert sunlight, carbon dioxide, and water into oxygen and carbohydrates that feed the coral polyps and help them produce reef-building calcium carbonate. In return, the corals provide the zooxanthellae with protection and the compounds they need for photosynthesis. Pigments in zooxanthellae also give corals their beautiful orange, red, purple, and yellow colors. *Maricopa Community College / 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 BON DOET, 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 BON DOET. Choose what you'd like to do best on our website. We are going for it! Are you?

Register today at bondoet2012@gmail.com, www.bondoet.nl or 717-2366

Hasi bon, pasa bon!

The biggest volunteer's event on Bonaire.



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

LET ORION AND VENUS BE YOUR GUIDE

Almost everyone's favorite constellation of winter has to be **Orion the hunter** simply because it's so huge, so bright and so easy to identify. But did you know that you can use the stars of Orion to find **Taurus**, the **giant bull** of the heavens, plus Orion's two hunting dogs and a crouching **rabbit named Lepus**?

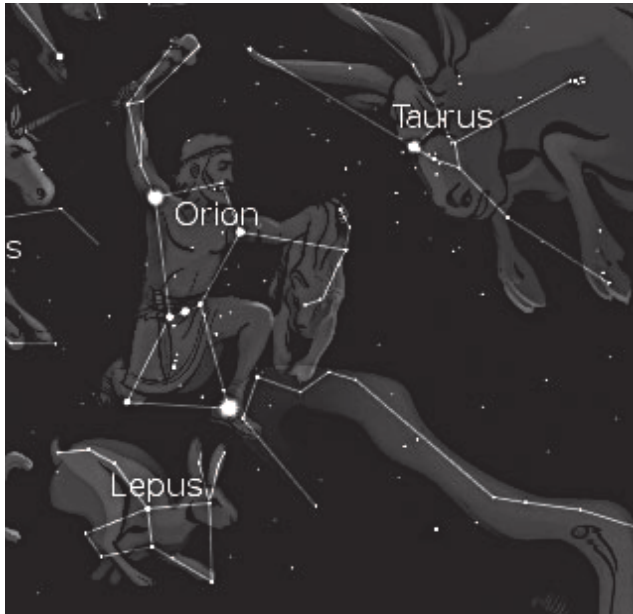
Plus we have two dazzlingly bright planets in the western sky after sunset and a rare chance to use **Venus** to help you spot the giant planet **Uranus**.

On any night over the next few weeks between 8 and 10 pm look due south where you'll see three bright stars evenly spaced and lined up in a row. They make up the fabled belt of Orion the hunter. And directly above them you will see two other bright stars, which mark Orion's shoulders and below the belt two more bright stars which mark his knees.

Now if we shoot an arrow in either direction through Orion's belt we can find several wonderful cosmic objects. For instance if we shoot an arrow up to Orion's right our arrow will land almost smack dab on a reddish orange star named **Aldebaran**, which is the fierce red eye of **Taurus** the bull. But if you have really dark skies and extend that arrow a little bit further you will see a tiny dim cluster of stars riding on **Taurus'** shoulder, the cluster of stars called **The Seven Sisters, The Pleiades**.

Next shoot an arrow through Orion's belt in the opposite direction and it will land smack dab on the brightest star we can see in the night sky, **Sirius**. It marks the eye of one of Orion's two dogs, **Canis Major** which in Latin means the big dog. And if you use your imagination and draw lines between some of these stars you can come up with a pretty good stick figure of a pooch.

But Orion also has a smaller canine companion named **Canis Minor** and to find it, well, is a bit trickier. Take **Bellatrix**, one of the shoulder stars of Orion, and draw a line between it and the other shoulder star, Be-



telgeuse, then extend that line to the east and while it won't run smack dab into **Canis Minor** it will come very close to the bright star **Procyon** which marks his eye. It too is very bright although not as bright as **Sirius**.

So we have now used the belt of Orion to find Orion's big dog and his two shoulder stars to find Orion's little dog. But one of our favorite constellations near Orion is a rabbit, which Orion's two dogs have probably been hunting for the past few thousand years. His name is **Lepus** the hare. And he's directly underneath Orion's feet, perhaps hiding in a cosmic bush Orion is standing in: smart **Lepus**, not so smart **Orion**.

And what about those planets we mentioned earlier? Well you can hardly miss **Venus** and **Jupiter** in the western sky. Venus is the lower and brighter of the two planets and is our evening star. You can see Venus even before sunset and if you know where to look you can even see it in broad daylight with your naked eye. Venus and Jupiter are still getting closer each night and early in March they'll be super close.

But next week on February 9 Venus will be even closer to another planet that is usually a lot harder to spot than Jupiter. On the evening of February 9 Venus will be less than a half degree away from **Uranus**. You couldn't even fit one full **Moon** between them, they'll be so close. You'll have to use binoculars to see this. ■ *Dean Regas & James Albury*

Horoscopes 2012

February 2012

Aries (March 21-April 20): Everything about you is and must be private for the next several months. Although you strive to be out and about, succeeding in all endeavors, the planets are pulling you inward to gather strength and wisdom for the next leap forward. Tremendous change in your professional life is about to occur. You'll need courage, which is drawing itself around you. **Taurus (April 21-May 21):** Your mind is attempting to be spiritualized. What does that mean? That a new state of consciousness is available due to new levels of information being beamed down through the crown of your head into the cells and atoms of your physical brain. Be aware of this. It's like catching a fiery star.

Gemini (May 23-June 20): As the Sun transmits Pisces into your life, compassion grows bigger and brighter, like your twin star Pollux. You swim about seeking to find who to care for and how to serve. In between being the server you do need the arts, too. All the arts, both visual, tactile, moving, and blinking (neon). Careful of where and how you walk. And stay away from spirits (alcohol).

Cancer (June 21-July 20): A prayer website may be of great interest because of its comprehensive overview of spiritual paths. You are rather "universal" this month, which means all-inclusive. You resonate with all religions and philosophies. The power of prayer takes on great potential for you. It provides insight and imagination. Travel, as a spiritual journey, becomes vividly meaningful.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 22): You seek more depth within relationships, not necessarily sexually, though that too may occur. But more specifically you seek to express yourself emotionally through communication, which creates understanding (a standing under) and wisdom. Monetary situations may disrupt your mysterious thoughts. But wait awhile. They'll disappear in a moment's time.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Brightness follows you wherever you go. If not the brightness of gold, then the gold of confidence, knowledge, and illumination are yours this month. Careful with others though. A funny sort of power problem may occur. Speak your truth in careful, measured, and neutral terms. Stand your ground.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You seek to bring beauty and comfort into your daily life, whether it's serving others in your profession or tending to the ill and housebound. Actually, your presence becomes the beauty people seek and when you realize this, all tasks take on a luminous and compassionate light. Beware of an emerging sensitivity to everything, especially drugs, medicines, foods, and the auras of others.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Films speak to you this month. So watch them endlessly-every day and every night. Look for love in dance, photography and music. Bring these arts to children or take them with you. All things personal will be synthesized in the art forms you choose to be around. But most of all you need to choose one (or more) art forms to become proficient in. It's time.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20): Careful with all relationships, especially those intimate. Be cautious with outgoing energy. You may find yourself in a warrior's stance. This may or may not be appropriate. The important thing is not to hurt or be hurt. If you are (or do), wounds will appear. They are lessons and they are not easy. Healing eventually occurs but not before battle.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 20): Perhaps you are being rather dreamy these days and perhaps you're also stumbling about (literally) as if you have fins instead of feet. Don't fret. This is natural during this time of year when Piscean waters deeply sensitizes you. Get some new shoes, drink lots of water, speculate endlessly (take notes), attend church, and know that no one escapes reality. You're just in another state (of expanded reality).

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 18): Your talents need to expand this month to include artistic endeavors. This will bring greater financial possibilities and a sense of being within the stream of culture. Careful in the meantime with money. Use it for books, film, stock in oil and the oceans, gifts, religious icons, and art classes.

Pisces (Feb. 18-March 20): Being most sensitive during this time, it's important to tend to health and to remove oneself from environments that are unnatural, over stimulating, difficult, and contain not a shred of the artistic and cultural. Try not to swim into nets of confusion. Solitude and withdrawal, most days, is imperative. ■ *Merlin Jones*

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Playa Lechi Residence 1**

Located at ground floor at Playa Lechi Residence, this two bedroom condo offers great views on garden and the Caribbean Sea right from the extended covered porch. This condo is located as a secluded hide away at the North end of the complex with privacy as its trademark. Stroll to downtown Kralendijk seafront, moor your sailboat almost at your doorstep or simply relax poolside. Perfect for permanent living and great for rental purposes. Lay out: entrance to hallway leading to two bedrooms with plenty of closet space and two ensuite bathrooms (one bathroom is also accessible from the hallway), fully equipped open kitchen with laundryroom. Wide living room with sliding doors leading to extended covered terrace surrounded by tropical garden. Ample parking is available. Lot size: 16,140 ft (1.500 m²). Living area: 1,323 ft (132 m²)



**Asking price US\$ 585,000
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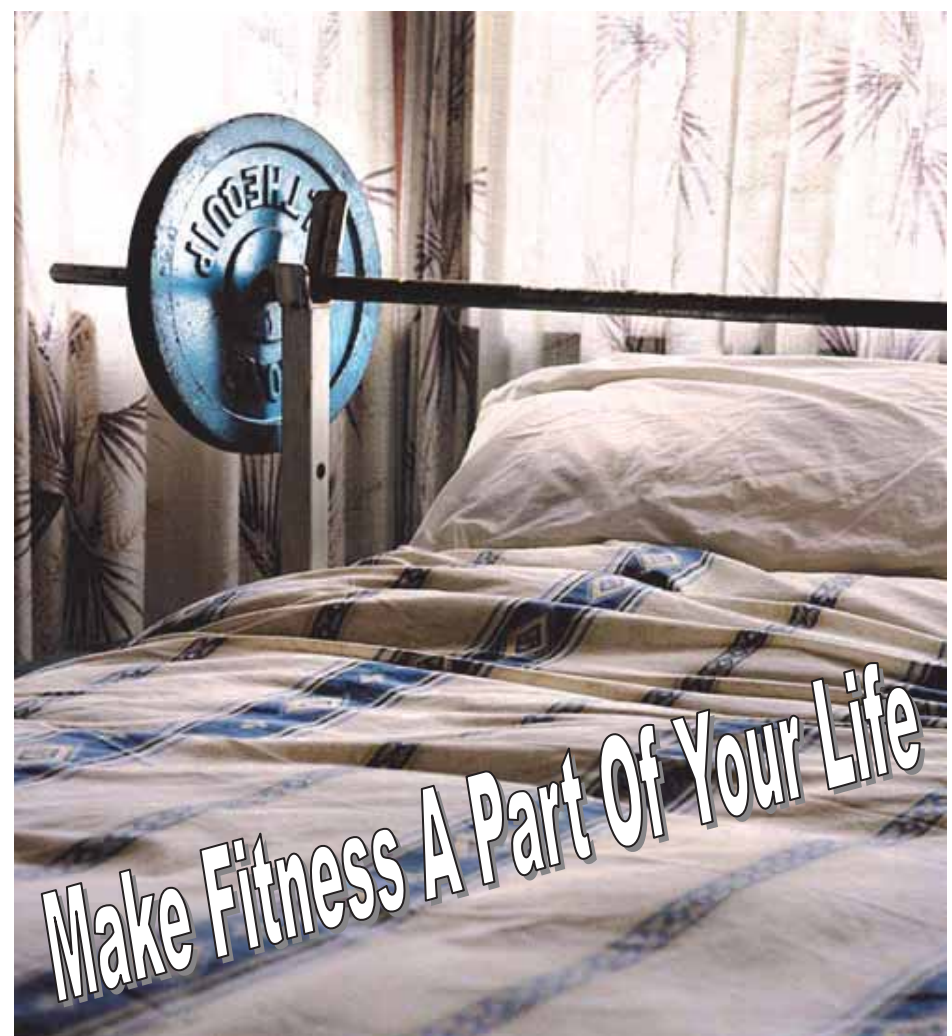


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