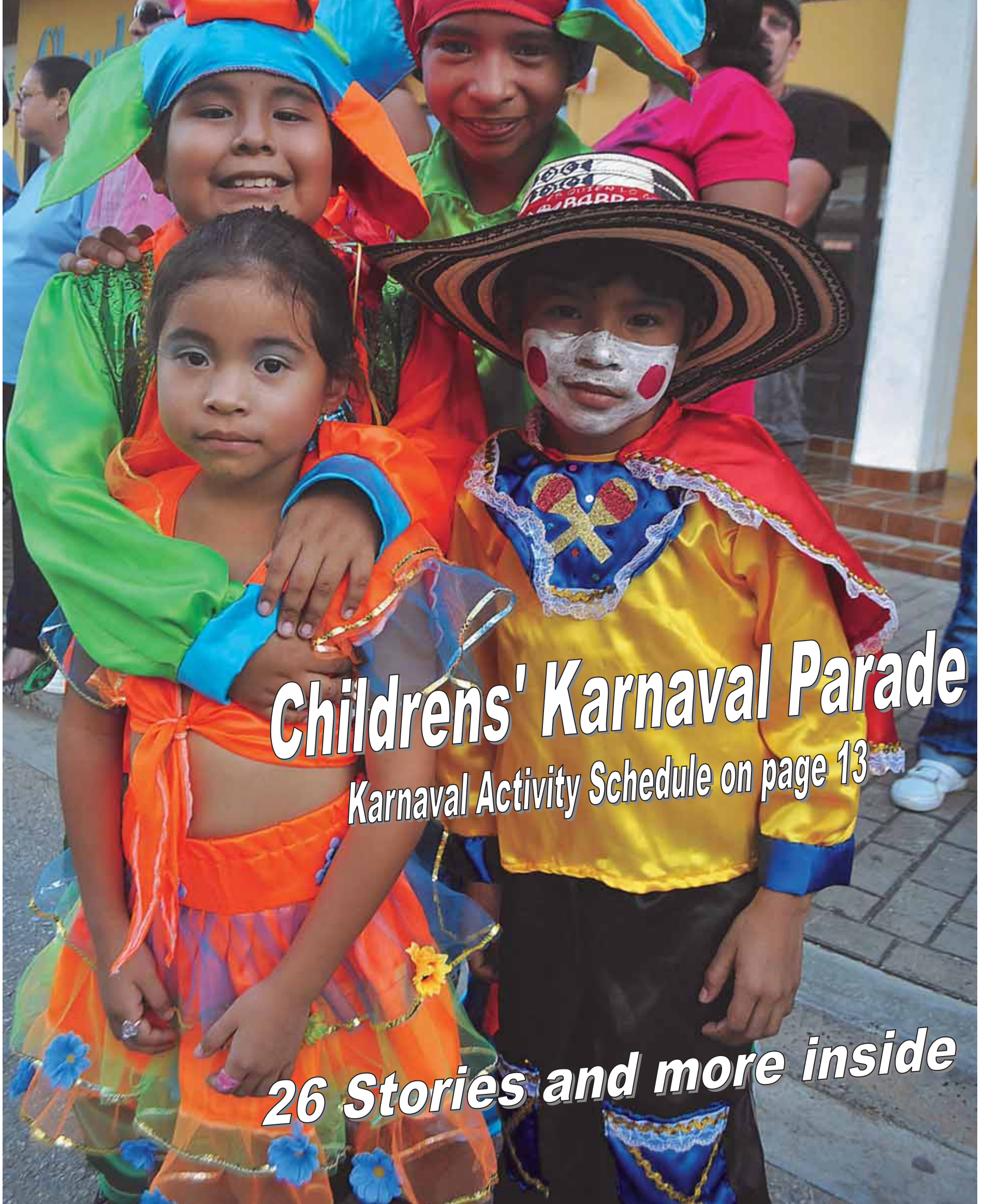


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BONAIRE February 17- March 2, 2012, Year 19, Issue 4
The REPORTER
Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Childrens' Karnaval Parade

Karnaval Activity Schedule on page 13

26 Stories and more inside

Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER



Donkey Beach

Donkey Beach

Consultants Royal Haskoning proposed a location for a new cargo port in Bonaire next to the jet-fuel pier at the airport. Part of Playa Mangel/Donkey Beach would have to be sacrificed.

Royal Haskoning is the oldest consulting firm in the Netherlands. The company was founded in 1881. The head office is located in Nijmegen. It is an independent, international engineering and environmental consultancy providing an extensive range of multi-disciplinary services that relate to planning and transport, industry and energy, maritime and waterways, water, and buildings. The Executive Council of Bonaire has a committee to prepare for a project to build a cargo port and pier. The committee sought the help of Haskoning. There is also a committee to obtain public support for the construction. The cost for the construction of a cargo port at the airport is estimated at \$15.6 million. There is an appeal for funds from the Netherlands and the private sector. A new cargo port became necessary because the existing facility in Kralendijk no longer has sufficient space due to the construction of a "cruise ship shopping mall."



Ecopower plant

►The Bonaire Executive Council has granted EcoPower Bonaire BV a temporary environmental permit valid until January 2013 waiving some environmental regulations for air, water, soil, groundwater, and other items. It would permit the use of low cost heavy fuel oil (HFO) with a sulfur content of up to 3%. A condition is that Ecopower carry out studies to assess the use of different fuel types to

minimize the emission of nitrogen oxides, sound levels, and a risk analysis for the soil and the storage of fuels. In May last year, the Council said that that the diesel engines of the power plant could be fired with HFO on a temporary basis. No objections have been filed. HFO is considerably cheaper than the light fuel mandated for use in most municipal power plants in Europe and the US. The Ecopower plant is designed to burn a variety of fuel ranging from HFO to biodiesel.

► **Eight million euros are to be made available to connect homes and businesses to the sewage system now being constructed along Bonaire's coastline.** It is to be funded by the Netherlands and European Union to connect homes and businesses to the system.

►Dutch Minister of Education, Culture and Science, Marja van Bijsterveldt-Vliegenthart, said that **she was considering an incentive package for Dutch teachers** who want to work in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba for three years or more. Included in the package would be pensions, the old age pension AOW, a dispatch allowance and a compensation for living expenses. For teachers who have just completed their studies, there would be an arrangement to satisfy their study debt. The minister has already made US \$1.3 million available for education on the islands. These additional funds mainly serve as a boost to upgrade education and the teachers' labor conditions.—*Suzanne Koelega*

►**Another connection with "old Bonaire" is about to disappear.** This time it's the venerable **cloth-paper driver's license (reibeweis).** The first new credit-card sized license will be presented on Friday, February 17, at the Civil Registry.

►**THE HAGUE—Companies and second-home owners in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba can expect their first assessment for the new property tax this summer.** Dutch State Secretary of Finance Frans Weekers announced this in a debate with the Second Chamber's Permanent Committee for Kingdom Relations. The 2012 assessment will follow 11 months later.

The property tax (*vastgoedbelasting*) became law effective January 1, 2011, but will be levied this year for the first time because the Tax Office needed more time to assess the value of the properties on the three islands. The property tax replaces the profit tax (*winstbelasting*) that was in place under the former Antillean fiscal system. Home owners

with a single dwelling need not worry as they don't have to pay property tax. However, said Weekers, people with a second house worth over US \$50,000 will have to pay property tax.

The tax is targeted at companies and foreigners with a vacation house on one of the islands. The 2012 assessment will be delayed by 11 months so that companies and residents will not have to pay two assessments within a short period. "Otherwise you create problems for people," said Weekers.

►**Dutch State Secretary Bleker also announced that five nature areas on the three BES islands would get the official status of national park shortly.** He will present an extensive nature policy plan to the Second Chamber by this summer.

►**Director Ralph van Hof of Ecopower wants the Dutch Government to guarantee continuity of electric power on Bonaire.**



Last month Director van Hof was jailed briefly for ordering a cut-off of power to the island. It was alleged it was deliberate, but he said it was to protect the equipment.

Van Hof wrote this in a letter that was published in *Energie* (Energy News), a daily internet paper published for sustainable energy professionals. There is a dispute between Ecopower and WEB on the electricity rate. WEB pays Ecopower two-thirds of what Ecopower charges. WEB feels it is justified based on existing agreements.

The problem is not with Ecopower, van Hof wrote in the Internet paper. Since Ecopower took over the production costs have been reduced and the number of disruptions dropped drastically due to the use of wind energy and the more efficient diesel engines that run on heavy fuel oil. The prices to the consumer have not dropped, however.

In the short term, investments will be necessary to increase the capacity of Ecopower because the demand for electricity is much higher than initially predicted, said van Hof.

►**On Tuesday, January 31st, a number of incarcerated young people demolished goods and furniture in the Bonaire prison (JICN).** They objected to the reconstruction of their cell block. Disciplinary measures were taken against the young detainees. Some background: The youth department

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A Heart Transplant For Playa

TOP SUPERMARKET

It's a Sunday afternoon and while I am waiting for a very busy Xuwen to arrive I am sitting at the cash register in what used to be Cultimara. The metal roll-down shutters are up. Cars are passing by and the moment they notice that the supermarket is open they slow down and try to get a glimpse of what's going on. It's so obvious that it really strikes me. Isn't it a strange thing how Cultimara used to be the heart of town? It was never 'just' a supermarket, it was also a meeting point for tourists and locals; a place where last minute errands were run; where on the corner outside the people would sit and chat. The hot-dog stand man and his regular customers complimented the entourage. Nurses from the hospital would come to shop, and the elderly people who live in Playa and its surroundings would be there. And on Sunday morning it was the only place where you could go in Playa. It was the life of town and then it closed.... and an important part of town died and the people left.

However, the day Cultimara closed, Xuwen Cen, the owner of Wing Cheung Supermarket in Antriol, came to the conclusion to take action!

"I think it's one of the best loca-



Former employee Johanna Sanabria, Xuwen Cen, and Aldrin Cicilia, former Cultimara employee for 21 years. Both back "at home."

tions on the island," he says, "but I never had any thought of taking over until right after the auction. Then MCB and Giro Bank stepped in with me and the way I see it is this. A man has to have a vision and a mission and once you have your vision you have to work hard for your mission. This is one of my missions and it's going to be named **Top Supermarket** – a new name for a fresh start.

There were a lot of people interested in renting or buying this building. I really don't know why I got the lease! Good question! I am

still looking for an answer!

Well, we are working hard: renovating, cleaning up, painting, replacing the old shelves and the cash registers. 90% of the old personnel are coming back and I'm happy to have them here.

There is going to be a **new bakery**, with three bakers. One is Bonairean, one is Dutch and the other one Latino. We also will have a **butcher shop** with Elli Thomas and Hector. Every week fresh fruits and vegetables will be flown in from Miami and also fruits and vegetables from Holland.

We are going to use the whole building, and we'll also have a café – a famous Italian franchise, **Barbera Café**, which was established in Italy in 1780. It's going to be the first Barbera Cafe in the Caribbean with tables and chairs and snacks and sandwiches.

We're aiming to open in March, but that's not really a deadline as we are going to use POS (Point Of Sale) -system for the cash register, and the machinery and the equipment has to come all the way from the States and that's going to take a while. I always have my dreams,"



he smiles. "And I always like a challenge! I won't say I will compete with Van der Tweel and Warehouse because they concentrate more on the European items. I will concentrate more on American, local and Latino products.

When I told my parents – who are running Wing Cheung Supermarket with me – that I wanted to start Top Supermarket at the old Cultimara location they said, 'it's going to be a lot of work... can you handle it?' And I answered, 'well, I think I can.'

You know I am 33 years old. I was born in Guandong, China, and came to Bonaire when I was seven. I went to the first grade and didn't understand one word of Dutch, which was the language of instruction at the time. In the fourth grade all my grades were okay. I spoke Papiamentu, Dutch and Chinese. At the time my father worked in the kitchen of Torito Snack in Antriol and after school and during weekends I helped my father peeling potatoes, cutting up veggies and meat, making loempias and putting the sate meat on the sticks. I went to Havo and after high

(Continued on page 7)



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On the Island Since... July 2009 Heidi van den Tillaar

“When I was 13 I had a pen-pal on Aruba. We wrote each other for a couple of years, then we lost contact, but somehow, during those teenage years I bonded with the Antilles.

When I was studying to become an English teacher, I was always looking at the job advertisements and I used to cut out the ones from the Antilles. After I graduated one of the first interviews was for a teaching job on Curaçao, but it didn't work out. Then I tried twice more, once for a job on St. Martin and the other on Aruba, but then my personal situation didn't allow me to leave Holland.

I'd started working at a school in Holland and then, after 16 years, I heard from an ex-student of mine who was already working at the SGB high school on Bonaire that they were looking for an English teacher. By then I was already in my 40s and I thought, 'It's now or never!'

Fifteen years ago I had been

here twice when a friend of mine was teaching at the SGB. Some readers might even remember her name: Lieke Swinkels. She was a Dutch teacher and she left the island about 10 years ago. When Lieke was working here I visited Bonaire twice. My daughter Anne was still a baby, and Lieke and I were in the same situation: alone with a baby. She invited me to Bonaire so we could heal and support each other and that worked out so well! Ever since, Bonaire is my healing island. In 2008, the four of us – Lieke and her daughter and my daughter Anne and I – visited Bonaire again. I went to have a look at the SGB and I thought, 'hmmm, I would love to work here!' and a year later it happened.

The move was a lot of work and a lot of stress, but in the end it was worth it. And both Anne and I decided we wanted to make this move. It was exciting and I was very happy to make this long lasting dream come true! For me

it was also a way to escape the pressures in my personal and working life. Another, and most important issue, was Anne's health because she suffers from eczema and bronchitis and moving to this climate was very beneficial, very good for her. In Holland we had to see specialists all the time, and she was on medication. But here, from day one, no doctors, no medication! It was a really big relief.

I had a good impression of what to expect at school because I had visited SGB a year before so I knew exactly what I was getting into. It was hard at times at the beginning because I was used to different facilities and a different age group. I was a college teacher in Holland and here the kids are between 12 and 18 years. But I was so happy to be here and I felt very challenged.

The first two years I taught at both junior college and Havo/VWO, the higher classes. Now I am only teaching Havo/VWO



Heidi van den Tillaar

secondary education at *Liseo Boneriano*, the new school on Kaya Amsterdam. The way I see it is that basically children are children – all around the world. What I like very much is the mix of people here at school. They come from South America, the Caribbean and Europe. It's very interesting to hear all these different languages and to learn about the different cultures. At school during breaks, you can hear children speaking Papi-

amentu, English, Spanish and Dutch. That is fantastic! Sometimes I think people in general and the children themselves don't always realize what an asset it is to speak all these languages.

I speak a little Papiamentu, but not as much as I would like to by now. I can read it fine and when people speak slowly or when I watch the news I can follow it, but when people have an

(Continued on page 5)

“At school during breaks, you can hear children speaking Papiamentu, English, Spanish and Dutch. That is fantastic!”

		
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On the Island Since (continued from page 4) informal conversation it's hard for me. However, I am working on it and I'm also looking for a teacher who can give us private lessons. As most people speak it here, I feel obliged to learn it.'

Heidi is such a reliable and nice person. She's someone who is very appreciative, calm and welcoming and she's very well organized.

The lifestyle here, the Caribbean lifestyle, the lovely climate, being always outdoors, it makes you realize that there are other things besides work that are important in life. And I love the nature, above and underwater. I love the birds- the hummingbird in the flowers, the trupials- but also the iguanas in the garden. You would think you'd get used to it, but I never take it for granted. I appreciate it every day! I still say to Anne, 'Look, a trupial!' and then she says 'yeah...', but she is at that age, 13. I was no different then.

When I drive to school and I take the route along Saliña Vlijt and I see the flamingos that are often there, I laugh to myself because I think when I tell my friends in Holland it sounds so incredibly exotic, and here it's normal! But not to a Dutch girl it isn't! No! And I have the same feeling when I'm diving: every parrot fish, every trunk fish, the corals, it's such an amazing underwater life. Before I dove I couldn't even imagine it.

We have hiked up Mount Brandaris five, six times and the view never bores us, and although I don't know a whole lot about nature I can still enjoy it very much. I would love to know more and if I

wanted a new career, I would probably try to work for Stinapa or the Park. What Stinapa's Desiree Croes does with the educational programs they have - I follow it on Facebook - is very important and very interesting.

I was involved in the book, *1001 Proverbia*. Bart and Jacqueline from Bon Kousa came to school and asked the language teachers if they wanted to help modernize and translate the verbs, so I became one of the English translators and that again was really nice, because I read a lot of Papiamentu and learned many new words and... I am very proud my name is in the book!

I am really devoted to my work. I am a person who is very loyal to her job and the children. So, if I have some time on my hands I'd rather put it into school work than other things. But, as I said, I learned here also to let go. In Holland I really felt that every minute should be spent constructively and usefully, but now I can let go. That's much healthier! Let's say I can definitely relax here better. It's easy to unwind and I can pick up a book, lie down in the hammock or spend a Sunday at the beach. In Holland I was always working and when I wasn't working I was thinking of work. It's probably my flaw, so Bonaire has been very good to me in many ways!

In Holland we lived close to my parents and my sister and they were my whole security network. Here I have had to build up a new one, but that went very easy. I guess I was lucky to meet the right people from the start, people you can depend on and who are always willing to help you.



At Liseo Boneriano (SGB). From the left to the right: Jennelee Jasin, Heidi van den Tillaar, Chesron Granviel and Margaux Tellez

Probably I won't stay here forever. When I left Holland people said, 'You have a three-year contract, so you'll be back after three years. That's what they hoped. But I always said, 'I am not so sure about that, I don't know.' And just a little while ago Anne and I decided that I should renew my contract which ends this coming July.

I think that I am just very lucky that the whole experience has worked out very well so far. It's lived up to my expectations, which is a wonderful thing. And from here on, we'll see. It gives me a great sense of freedom to be able to decide whatever we want - no restrictions, no one to push me. As long as Anne and I feel happy here there's really no reason to

change that.

You know, last Christmas I went to visit my pen-pal from 30 years ago on Aruba. I'd found her through Facebook. And after many wanderings she lived again at her old address in Aruba, the same address I used to send my letters to. It was so special and so much fun and both of us enjoyed it immensely - and, to me, it felt like the circle was closed because it had all started there and now it had all come together.."

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra-





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Let's Get Real About Tourism For The Disabled



Commissioner Silvana Serfilia (in green jacket) met with the group seeking better handicapped person access to Bonaire government facilities last week.

We need to face the obvious. Bonaire needs to reestablish itself as a unique destination. We became a diver's paradise and have capitalized on that for years, but we're being copied by others in the Caribbean rim that wish to cash in on our success. Cruise ships are not the answer. They do bring income to a certain sector and the trickle down is felt by the overall economy, but it amounts to a pittance compared to other untapped markets.

Last May, Barbados hosted the 11th Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development. According to Barbadian Senator Kerry, "Disabled people are getting around. They're travelling across the world in the millions, spending billions of dollars and creating a new emerging market that regional tourism officials are being told to tap into. There's an increasingly growing demographic of persons with disabilities spending billions of dollars annually and travelling with families and caregivers."

Bonaire is in the position to create a world class tourism product. The North American market has more than 22 million residents with disabilities who travel. Moreover, the seniors' market will be increasing dramatically as the baby boomer generation ages.

"Those with disabilities account for \$25 billion in consumer spending," Senator Kerry continued. "Those persons over the age of 55 represent more than a quarter of all tourism-related trips and are most likely to have the spending power and benefit from increased accessibility."

Countries such as Singapore, China, India, Australia, the US, Canada and Mexico are finding ways to adapt to new market conditions, so as to renew their competitive advantage and gain market share. With the change in diver demographics Bonaire needs to tap close-by markets. The travelers with special needs are not strangers to our island. For a number of years Divi Flamingo has hosted the handicapped dive organizations. They are one of the few properties that has been made almost 100% accessible. Captain Don's Habitat has a number of rooms constructed to be accessible as well.

The foundation, MiVaBo has been very active the past two years to see that the island is being made aware of the need for a barrier-free environment, not just for visitors, but for those of us who are not able to walk as well as the more able bodied residents. Folks in wheelchairs, walkers, with canes or are otherwise impaired are not free to gain access to a number of businesses, government offices, etc.

Picture Yourself With The Reporter in... Amsterdam, The Netherlands



Natasja Statie-Gerharts sent us this photo of her husband, Iby, in Amsterdam on the Leidseplein on December 29th 2011. In the photo with him are his four children: Raisa, Victoria, Franchesca and Joshua.

WE NEED MORE PHOTOS!

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MiVaBo has undertaken a public awareness campaign and has been in contact with government offices, officials and department heads and local businesses. There will also be a bumper sticker available making it known that our goal is to become 100% accessible. Once we make more headway, we will publish a guide to the island listing all of the barrier free businesses, etc.

The result will be that the millions of travelers with disabilities who are heading to destinations that cater to their needs will also be made aware of us and what we have to offer. Not only will the island benefit from the income but it will be playing an important role in delivering our message of sustainability and also allowing us to live up to our motto...."Once a Visitor, Always a Friend!" ■ *Michael Gaynor*

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Letters to the Editor



Al Catafulmo photo

An example of Bonaire waterfront already too crowded with piers

THE IMPORTANCE OF CLEAN WATER

Dear Editor:

I understand some Bonaireans are voicing opposition to some of the environmental regulations that are for the benefit of Bonaire's future. With my over 30 years of being involved and living here, I would like to mention the following:

When I arrived on Bonaire Papa Statia was the Minister of Economic Development for the Netherlands Antilles. In one of our first conversations he said to me, "My first time to Holland, after many

meetings, I wanted to go to the sea. I went to Zandvoort and when I looked at the sea and saw dirty water, etc., I would not swim there. Only then did I realize how beautiful my island and the surrounding sea was."

With this message I hope many will understand the importance of protecting it so their children and their children's children can enjoy it as Papa's children and all of us are today.

Al

CONSEQUENCES OF OVERDEVELOPMENT

Dear Editor:

Bonaire currently enjoys a worldwide reputation as one of the finest dive and snorkel destinations in the Caribbean. The revenue generated from tourism is what keeps the island going, period.

My girlfriend and I have visited Bonaire 10 times. I would estimate our on-island expenditures (not including transportation to and from) are \$15,000 per visit, including lodging, rental car, meals and additional expenses. Obviously, our expenditures are but a drop in the tourism bucket.

We visit Bonaire because of the island's unmatched snorkeling and nature opportunities. The fact that Bonaire has made an unprecedented effort to protect its reefs while expanding the national park has helped make it an ideal destination for thousands of people each year.

Building piers out into the ocean will not only end up killing the reefs but their unsightly nature will ultimately kill the island as a dive/snorkel destination.

Thinking otherwise is simply bowing to the greed of potential developers who care nothing about the island's long-term health. All they care about is lining their pockets, and long after they're gone the island will continue to pay the price for this foolishness in a devastated tourism industry. When tourism fails the island itself will financially fail. Without tourism there's nothing to keep the island going.

This plan must be stopped, period. Allowing this proposal to go forward will be the death knell for Bonaire.

From the personal standpoint, if this goes forward we'll give up our long-term plan of buying a home on the island. With dead reefs, a decimated tourism industry and nothing-short-of-ugly buildings sticking out into the ocean, what possible reason could we have for returning, even for a visit?

Someone in a position of authority needs to rethink this entire proposal. From any perspective, allowing this to happen will result in a disaster for Bonaire.

Jon Asher & Carol Johnson

(Continued from page 3)

school I studied electrical engineering in New York. It was a great experience in every way. I came back to Bonaire in 2004. By then my father had opened Peking Bar and Restaurant on Kaya Korona. Next door was an empty lot and that's where we built Wing Cheung Supermarket which opened its doors in 2006.

In March 2006 I married my beautiful wife, Iris Liang. Now we have three children, six, four and two years old. The eldest is going to the Pelikaan School and the second one will go there soon. The little one is still at home. I am also a student, studying for an MBA on-line from the University of Phoenix. I should be finishing in June, but I've postponed it to December.

I think parents should be an example for their children. That's why I am still in school and writing a thesis in the middle of the night because I need to graduate!

While I am mainly busy here, my wife, my



parents and my good employees will take care of Wing Cheung Supermarket for the time being, but I will be there too, going back and forth."

I look at him. Xuwen is a really cool person. He has a great charisma, is terribly smart and nice and very good with people and he is super down to earth and true to himself. Do you sleep at night? I ask him and he laughs, "I still sleep every night," he answers." ■ Greta Kooistra

It Takes All Kinds of People...



Left to right: Dutch sisters-in-law Candida and Joyce and Corina, manager at It Rains Fishes.

Extreme Experiences

Candida and Joyce, two Dutch sisters-in-law came to Bonaire for a month after what had been a very hectic and draining year. Their plan was to sleep, swim and snorkel. The second night after they arrived they went for dinner at It Rains Fishes restaurant. When they left the restaurant at 9:30 pm, they walked through Kaya Engelhardt (where Bobbejans is) to get to their apartment. Then all of a sudden - they had not heard anything - a guy ran into them, snatched Candida's handbag and took off. "We were standing there as if we were hit by lightning," they explained. "And when common sense took over we realized the keys of the apartment were in my purse. Not knowing what to do, we walked back to Rains Fishes. All of the staff at Fishes were absolutely shocked and so incredibly beautiful and helpful that we really felt consoled and taken care of. Signa, the manager, immediately called the police. They came right away and took us to the station where we made the report. Also the police were ever so gentle and helpful. They called the maintenance man of the apartment complex

where we stayed and he opened the door for us.

A few days later when we walked along the promenade we heard a voice, 'Ladies! Ladies!' And it was Signa. She asked us how we were doing and if we had gotten professional aftercare and she invited us for a free dinner. We went after a couple of days and they gave us a night never to forget! We were treated like queens. We could eat and drink whatever we wanted, the service and the sweetness was unforgettable and incredible. And then, Huub, the owner, took us home.

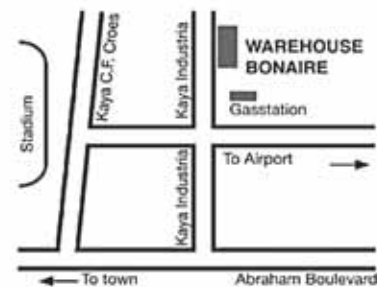
To us, it was so beautiful and really something special, because It Rains Fishes had nothing to do with the fact that we were robbed. But Huub said, 'We do feel responsible and we do feel bad about it and we don't want you to leave with a bad feeling for Bonaire.'

Well, we don't feel safe, that's for sure, and we don't walk anywhere at night anymore, but we will always have a good feeling about Bonaire - because in spite of what has happened we have also met incredibly beautiful people here." ■ Greta Kooistra



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BONAIREAN VOICES

PRICE MADNESS

When you see the title, "Price Madness," what comes to mind? Sales, bargains, discounts? No, no, no. Are prices going up instead of down? Yes. This is what we call **Price Madness**. You have to deal with the dollar and of course you have to deal with the cost of living. The freight importing fees are terribly high, and besides that some retailers and wholesalers are taking advantage of the situation. What is going on? We comment, criticize and protest, but it seems that there is nobody out there to hear all these complaints.

We used to have a foundation called *Fundashon Tienda di Konsumido* or Consumer Office or desk. Around 1999 and 2001 Deputy Jose Winklaar's government saw the need to install such an office where the consumer had the right to ask for help if something went wrong. All the legal papers were taken care to establish this foundation and Mrs. Yvette Anthony was appointed as head. At first the office was in the Harbour Village building, but because of the distance for the public it was moved to an office space in the complex of *Fundashon Kas Boneriano* (Housing Foundation for Bonaire), closer to town.

As Mrs. Anthony (54) explains: "The foundation worked as an Information Desk to help the consumer know his or her rights and to protect the consumer in all kinds of business transactions. The foundation consisted of different commissions to assist in legal matters, products law, public health care, advice, consumer safety, education, basic needs. They worked in connection with DEZA (economic department) to supply the consumer with proper information. The foundation was not authorized to take legal action, but it was there to give advice about existing problems. The foundation gave advice via different training sessions on how to deal with money, eating right, expired products, psychology in dealing with financial problems, family matters, how to deal with incomes, family rights for legal matters (hereditary) and how to save money for the future.



Yvette Anthony

Unfortunately the foundation stopped functioning because of lack of personnel and management and after a few years it was dissolved. Lately they've tried to install a new office for the consumer, and it should happen because the consumer is suffering. We'd hoped it would happen soon and that consumer advice would continue. Communication between the foundation and the consumer is very important. The consumer must find his or her way to the foundation. Consumer training sessions have to start again. The foundation must stick to the rules for better administration and must avoid mingling with commercial interests. The foundation has to protect the consumer from becoming a victim of devious practices in the business sector. The consumer must be more aggressive and more assertive in asking for his or her rights. We hope too that the location will be appropriate for the consumer. The saying is always, 'The consumer is king.' Let's give the consumer what he or she deserves."

The cries of the consumers go to those in charge of consumer protection. Consumers are waiting for a solution on the nearest horizon. ■

Photos & story by
Siomara Albertus



Health Insurance Update



Effective January 1st, 2012, several changes were implemented in the government health insurance package for the BES islands:

- **Birth control pills are covered** for all insured persons, regardless of age.
- Termination of pregnancy* (**abortion**) on **medical grounds in accordance with the Law Terminating Pregnancy, carried out by a licensed institution in accordance with the law, will be covered.**
- Termination of pregnancy, without medical grounds in accordance with the Law Terminating Pregnancy, carried out by a licensed institution, will be covered, in the event this takes place on one of the BES islands.
- **One in-vitro fertilization attempt** (IVF treatments) will be covered.
- All insured persons are now entitled to admission into a hospital in a room which is **climate controlled and has insect repellent** - regardless of class.
- In case you are **abroad you are always insured for critical emergency care**; either care which is planned or which due to medical reasons cannot be delayed
- The coverage for **hearing aids** is for insured persons from 16 years and older if:
 1. This is being provided for the first time, otherwise provided 6 years ago for the first time. The coverage is increased from \$660 to \$ 1,100;
 2. If a hearing aid was provided to the insured person longer than 6, but shorter than 7 years ago, the coverage is increased from \$785 to \$1,200, and;
 3. A hearing aid which is provided to the insured person 7 years ago or longer, the coverage is increased from \$ 900 to \$1,300. Insured persons up to the age of 15 years are entitled to full coverage for a hearing aid.

More information about the health insurance can be found on www.rijksdienstcn.com under the heading care. If you have questions, you can call the Health Insurance Office (ZVK) on 715-8899. ■ *Press release*

*Following the release of this information this was provided by the Second Chamber of Parliament:

THE HAGUE--The Dutch Second Chamber isn't happy with the fact that abortions are still being done illegally in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba despite changes in the law and appropriate medical coverage **because no doctor or medical facility has requested a permit.**

Abortion was legalized in the BES Islands on October 10, 2011, following an amendment during the legislation procedure to dismantle the Netherlands Antilles and to establish the "public entities" of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. Minister of Parliament van Gent pointed out that the entire purpose of her amendment was to eradicate illegal (and often unsafe) abortions by medically incapable persons. Minister of Parliament Schippers replied that she too had been shocked by the large number of abortions on the islands. She said 50% of Dutch Caribbean pregnancies ended in an abortion. Abortion, with or without a medical reason performed by a doctor or facility **with a permit**, was included in the basic package outlined above. Minister Schippers said that as long as no permits were issued, the informal practice where women can go to certain doctors for an abortion would be maintained. ■ *Press release*

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Body Talk

SLAUGHTERING ANOTHER SACRED COW – ASPIRIN

Aspirin, universally, probably the most prescribed drug today! Whether you had a heart attack or stroke or are at risk of these, you have been prescribed aspirin to ‘keep the blood thin’ – just in case!

The uselessness of aspirin taken for cardiovascular disease, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, found that not only does aspirin NOT PREVENT HEART ATTACKS, but patients who take daily aspirin and take ibuprofen regularly actually double their risk of a fatal heart attack!

Furthermore, thousands of people each year die of side effects of aspirin, including upper GI (Gastro Intestinal) bleeding. Aspirin also increases the incidence of hemorrhagic strokes (which constitute about 20% of all strokes), and taking daily aspirin can actually cause the formation of a blood clot, rather than preventing it. Another side effect of regular aspirin use is HEARING LOSS. Those who use Tylenol only twice weekly have double the risk of hearing loss, ibuprofen increases hearing loss by two-thirds, and aspirin by one-third. Curhan, et al. Analgesic use and risk of hearing loss in men. *Am J Med.* March, 2010.

A study done at the University of Sidney in Australia and reported in the Medical Tribune on June 25, 1992 showed that patients with some degree of blockage of arteries to the brain are three times more likely to have a stroke if they are taking aspirin, and that the incidence of stroke was from as little as a half a tablet daily.

Another study observed that those on

daily aspirin regimens have a twofold increase in hemorrhagic strokes, which cripple and kill. In other more recent studies, kidney and liver problems appeared as a result of daily low-dose aspirin.

Ogawah, et al. Low-dose aspirin for primary prevention of atherosclerotic events in patients with Type II diabetes. *JAMA*, November 2008. This study concluded that in patients with type II diabetes, low-dose aspirin does not reduce the risk of cardiovascular events, either heart attack or stroke.

Another so-called side effect from daily low-dose aspirin has popped up – BLINDNESS. The age group usually involved with daily aspirins for heart protection is in the same age group most vulnerable to Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD). Wet macular degeneration is the type of AMD most likely to develop into blindness, and the rate of wet AMD occurrences among daily aspirin poppers was twice that of senior citizens not taking low-dose aspirin daily!

And here is one just for the men – ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION! See for yourself – <http://www.naturalnews.com>

Research done at the University of California and reported in the British Medical Journal showed that elderly men and women, taking aspirin daily, almost double their chances of developing ischemic heart disease, increased risk of both kidney and colon cancer along with morbidity from bleeding ulcers and other intestinal bleeding.

In case you’re wondering, most of the



side effects of aspirin have been known for 20 years, but it is only since about 2005/6 that it has been over-prescribed to the rate it is today. Your doctor and your cardiologist know these risks, yet they are still prescribing aspirin! WHY? Is it sheer ignorance or willfulness? STOP FOLLOWING AND START QUESTIONING!

There is a lot more information that cannot fit into an article. For those of you, interested in the effects of high blood pressure, cholesterol and diuretic medications on the body, please feel free to email me: stephanie@essentialsbonaire.com. ■

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.



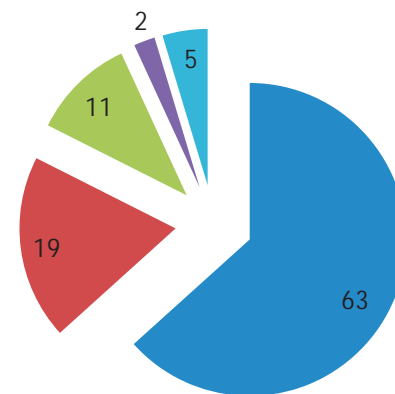
Who Lives Here?

The Dutch Caribbean population comprises more than 21,000 people- 15,666 on Bonaire, 3,600 on St Eustatius and 1,800 on Saba. A recent survey shows that the Dutch Caribbean population is 2,700 more than initially estimated.

The breakdown for Bonaire is below. ■

G.D.

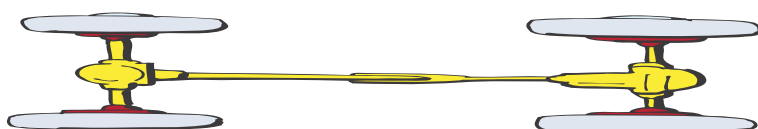
Source: Dutch CBS



Bonaire Residents

Birth Country 1/1/2011	%	Count
Former Netherlands		
Antilles	63	9923
Latin America	19	2990
The Netherlands	11	1675
US and Canada	2	345
Other Countries	5	733
Total		15 666

BONAIRE ON WHEELS



The 100th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire’s interesting vehicles that are “on wheels.” Hooray!

THE ELECTRIC POWERED SPIJKSTAAL TRUCK FROM AMANCIANO AND ELVIRA THIELMAN

Bonaire/Lagoen –

A couple of years ago I drove my motorcycle along the road to Lagoen. The afternoon weather was nice and the reliable trade wind delivered a slightly salty air cooling to the engine and the human being. Then, on the left side of the road I saw two little white Suzuki vans, parked next to a house. I geared down, turned the motorcycle, stopped and yelled at the gate of the property. First two dogs reacted. Then their owner showed up. I informed him about the lights of one of those little vans. Those lights were still turned on and the battery was losing its energy. It is so difficult to start a combustion engine without the power of a battery... Then I started my motorcycle with the electric starter motor

About a year ago I drove the same road on the same motorcycle, looking for the same sea angels. And still I was unfortunate. I knew you will never find who you are looking for when you are that eager to find her. This would take some

more time. However, I found a change in the environment. The two white Suzuki vans now were accompanied by a little yellow sprayed truck. I was sure this was a Dutch made Spijkstaal, powered by electricity! So again I yelled at the gate and again those two dogs appeared and a little bit later their owner showed up. I introduced myself and I referred to those burning headlights of one of the vans. And yes, the man remembered me and yes, he was in for an interview and yes, I was always welcome.

So this week I rolled down the road again and Mr. Amanciano Thielman was at home. At home means: busy. Busy trimming the grass, busy growing the palms, busy building his own wooden boats, busy welding his own little handy barbecue out of a non-returnable gas tank to refill air conditioners. And indeed: the little handy yellow truck was a Dutch Spijkstaal. The vehicle was given to Mr. Thielman by his friend Jacinto Cicilia. Mr. Thielman and Mr. Cicilia are both involved in handling the luggage at

the Flamingo Airport, the international airport of Bonaire. Mr. Cicilia had the idea of using the Spijkstaal to carry suitcases and to and from the airplanes. A smart idea since the Spijkstaal truck is powered by an electric engine, using electricity instead of gasoline or diesel. For some reason the plan finally did not work out properly. Probably there were some problems with the insurance. Then Jacinto Cicilia decided to donate the Spijkstaal to Amanciano Thielman.

This Spijkstaal truck is still very complete and it should run. The only problem is the batteries. Under the bed of the truck there’s a huge galvanized box which holds 12 batteries with two poles each. Maybe this is a 24-Volt system. (Research tells me the Spijkstaals run on a 36-Volt system./jb) It is not completely sure how this vehicle found its way overseas to Bonaire. A sticker glued on the side says: “Gemeente Slie-drecht” (Community/Municipality of Sliedrecht, near Rotterdam The Netherlands./jb) The vehicle is made of solid iron and parts of the bed are covered with aluminum diamond or checkered plate. The interior of the truck cabin is very Spartan and primitive. Simple seats, a yellow sprayed, all-iron dashboard with very few buttons reading: “forward” and “reverse.” A three-spoke steering wheel. One single wiper and two simple sliding windows. The only luxury is a lock in the door.

After shooting a lot of photographs we find some seats and a table behind the privately owned house and I start writing down some information in a combination of Dutch, English and Papiamentu. Amanciano Thielman is a real Bonairean. He loves his island and his culture and he loves the sea. As a fisherman he builds his own boats like Kadòf, the fisherman with the homemade wheelbarrow does. Amanciano’s grandfather is from Germany. We enjoy the silent sounds of the outback of Lagoen and we look over an impressive terrain on which the remains of the house of Amanciano’s mother still stands. Then a lovely face pops up from the curtains behind the window: Mrs. Thielman, Elvira from Aruba. Would I would like a nice cold soft drink? A cola perhaps? She joins us and presents the ice cold drinks and fresh chocolate chip cookies. We talk about Bonaire, the outback and the simple life on the kunukus. We talk about pollution and the increasing pile of waste the island produces. Then the subject of our talking comes back to the Spijkstaal and its environment friendly powered engine. No smoke, no noise, little pollution. Why are we that slow on a little island like Bonaire stepping up to light weight electric-powered commuters? Distances are short on our



Spijkstaal truck

island and most houses are connected to the WEB. This is only the second article about an electric powered vehicle. The second out of a hundred!

In the earlier days the Thielmans went to the beach for camping. They remember Sherman Gibbs with his homemade camper and the tires that fell apart on the trip from the beach back to Gibbs’ property, the terrain, surrounded by all the flags of the world, located at Tras di Montaña, along the road to Rincon!

The idea of the Thielmans is to convert the Spijkstaal truck in a little camper, like Sherman Gibbs did in those days. A little camper running on electricity and on tires in good condition.

Good luck, Amanciano and Elvira. How about solar panels on top of your cute little homemade camper! See you on the road. I’ll stay on Bonaire. And thank you for the soft drink and the cookies! ■

Photo & story by Jan Brouwer

Parrot Watch Update

Biscuit, the Lora, hated people and he was thoroughly sick and tired of human aversion training. He had hated people from the day a nice lady called to say she had found him as an injured Lora. He had made sure that every human he met knew he hated them. He'd even gone so far as to leave a long trail of puncture wounds and blood blisters to show his feelings. Even when the parrot team had carefully looked after him he had shown less gratitude than a disturbed scorpion.

By the way, dear reader, if you do find a parrot in need of help you may call 795-1188. (We're extremely busy and very snobby so we're only able to help parrots. Please don't be offended but we just can't help other birds!)

Biscuit's broken leg, which had been splinted, was long healed and he didn't even have a limp. Biscuit, as you will now doubt recall, dear reader, was one of the many young Loras and Prikichis in need of rehabilitation that Echo took on in addition to the huge rescue from July 2011. Yes it was 7 months ago. Unlike the 100+ chicks in the July rescue Biscuit had fledged from a wild nest. Consequently he was quite certain of the fact he was a Lora and that he didn't like people. He was a perfect candidate for release.

Perry had also fledged in the wild shortly before being found in the mouth of a German Shepherd. He too was ready to get out of the cage and he too was sick of human aversion training. What neither Biscuit nor Perry had realised was the improvement in their fitness that had come as a result of the

training. They were both stronger, leaner, and keener of eye than they had been and indeed they were ready to go.

The parrot team were of course fully aware of the Lora's readiness to be free. Indeed, after so many months of looking after so many Loras and Prikichis the parrot team were equally, if not more enthusiastic, for these birds to be free.

Luckily for humans and parrots alike the stars aligned, the full moon shone and a fantastic location in the middle of parrot heaven was secured where the parrots could be released. Since that time incessant, furious and rampant efforts have been made by the now aching parrot team to prepare the site. The moons and planets aligned once more and before they knew it Biscuit, Perry and five other birds were plucked from their home and taken to the new location. In this new cage they saw incredible views and all around them were wild Loras. From the first day Biscuit and Perry arrived the wild Loras came to visit. They could hardly contain their excitement. In much the same way that fellow release Lora Monty had known the end of his long walk to freedom was coming they too knew that soon they would be free.

We'll be sure to tell you all about what happens in the next parrot news. If you can't bear the excitement until then perhaps you might want to check out Echo's Facebook page for the latest news and pictures: www.facebook.com/echobonaire.org. ■

Dr. Sam Williams

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

17th Annual Lora Count



Some of the volunteers who counted Loras in Washington Park.

This year's Lora (Bonaire endangered Amazon parrot) count on January 18 spotted 650 Loras, but many more were heard but not seen. The population is estimated at more than 800. This was the 17th official count, a collaboration of DROB's environmental department, STINAPA Bonaire, Fundashon Salba NosLora Foundation and the Echo Foundation. In addition to locations in Washington Slagbaai Park dozens of volunteers, including 14 SGB high schoolers, counted Loras at 18 different spots. In the Park 166 loras were tallied and 486 outside the park.

The count is focused on known night-roosting areas of the Loras. The birds are counted as they rise from their roosts after sun-up. ■ *Elsmarie Beukenboom/G.D.*

March For Nature



Nature First marchers

On January 30 beginning at 8 am, about 100 people staged a peaceful demonstration in front of the island's executive offices to express their concern about an amendment that would water down the existing protection against waterfront development. They were in part responding to a call from Bonaire Marine Park Manager Ramon de Leon for support to defeat the measure.

The amendment would allow the construction of piers and multi-storey structures atop the piers without environmental impact studies and other safeguards. It would be up to the Island Executive Council to decide.

Bonaire's coral reefs and in fact reefs around the world are threatened by climate change, ozone layer depletion and other man-made stressors. Because of Bonaire's long standing awareness of the fragility of coral its reefs are in better health than most.

Waterfront construction would introduce sedimentation, pollution and kill coral. The waterfront area is also exposed to west wind driven waves which, in the past, have wiped out waterfront structures and their debris damaged the reef. ■ *G.D.*



This group of SGB high-schoolers said they would have joined the march had they only known earlier.



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Newest Must-Do On Bonaire

We were the first visitors to a new activity at Aletta van Beek's Semper Kontentu goat farm- coffee with goat's milk. Less than a kilometer down a dirt side road off the Seru Largu paved road it's at first hard to find, so call first. Follow the white-painted rocks and park just outside the goat cheese making area.

Long known for her handmade cheese with "love and care in every bite" Aletta now offers excellent coffee with optional goat's milk. The taste is very close to full cream cow's milk, but somehow better. We had our coffee with a small slice of pie and a big portion of conversation about the history of the farm—next to a field with goat mothers and their babies.

Running the farm is a very full time job for Aletta and her many volunteer helpers so the coffee time is restricted to Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 am to noon. Call ahead for more directions and reservations.



One of Kunuku Semper Kontentu's milk goats and her kids

Aletta is also preparing a weekly "goat products box" available by subscription. Ask her about it or call. ■ G.D.

Aletta's SEMPER KONTENTU Menu & To Go

MENU

Coffee with fresh Goat milk	
<i>Best Coffee on Bonaire!</i>	US\$ 2,50
Coffee Black	US\$ 2,00
Herb Tea -freshly picked-	US\$ 1,00
Awa Lamoenchi -if available-	US\$ 1,00



TO GO

Young Goat Cheese	US\$ 4,00
Aged Goat Cheese	US\$ 4,25
Goat Cheese with Basil	US\$ 4,50
Goat Cheese with Pepper	US\$ 4,50
Goat Milk -if available-	US\$ 2,00
Goat Yogurt -if available-	US\$ 4,00
Eggs -if available-	US\$ 1,00
Herb Tea Leaves -freshly picked-	US\$ 1,00

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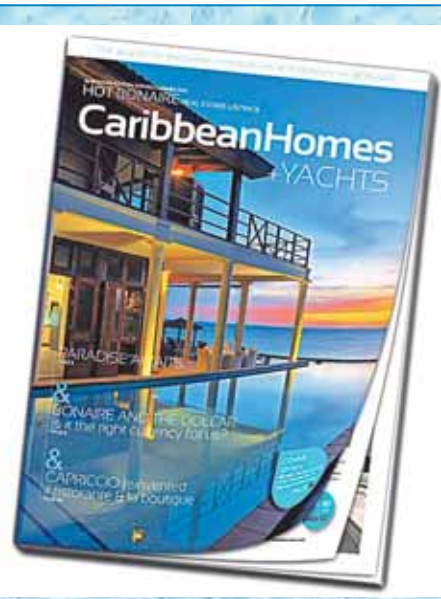
The "best coffee on Bonaire" and the accompanying milk is served behind the cheese-making area



Aletta got some help from her mother in preparing the coffee.

Sneak Preview!

Look for the debut of a new source of information about upscale Bonaire communities and lifestyles coming out this week. And it's free. We've glimpsed the premier edition and found the 104-page glossy publication beautifully designed and chock full of information, ideas, ads, features and even a couple of interviews. It presents some of Bonaire's elite real estate and puts it all into perspective to present the dream of living on our island. ■G.D.



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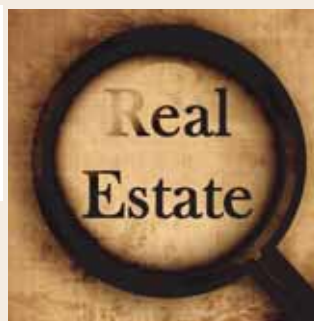
Ana Makaai's new restaurant

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Bonaire Real Estate Reflections



BONAIRE REAL ESTATE THE SMART WAY

Bonaire has seen more changes in the 15 months since 10-10-10 and 1-1-11 than in the 15 preceding years combined. From a real estate perspective the number of rumors about the changes seems to grow exponentially each week.

Instead of clarity and certainty the passage of time seems to bring more confusion and uncertainty. We understand the rumor mills. We understand how easy it is to find a Bonaire "expert" on the dive dock, in a restaurant, or on the Internet. My dad taught me an expert is a "former drip under pressure."

We have lived here many years; long enough to know that it is not always easy to get accurate information. We know official information may seem confusing and contradictory. We also know that Bonaire is a wonderful, beautiful and fantastic place to vacation and live. It is an island with so much to offer to so many people. The rewards of owning real estate and living and vacationing on Bonaire are much greater than the relatively minor inconvenience of a few hours spent getting dependable accurate information.

We encourage people to gather accurate information about Bonaire. Information gathering can have minor challenges. Not all government offices are open every day. Some offices have rotating schedules and hours. These are small issues and can be resolved with a simple phone call.

The official government website is an excellent source of information. It is a great place to begin. There are three caveats to keep in mind while looking at the site.

The only official site is [www.belastingdienst <http://www.belastingdienst> -cn.nl](http://www.belastingdienst-cn.nl). There are several sites that look and sound official but they are not. There are several unofficial sites giving visitation and immigration information about Holland and Bonaire. These sites have general information and lack the specifics relating to Bonaire. They are not official.

The second caveat is that the site does NOT have all the rules and regulations on it. The site is periodically updated and revised. You must check with the appropriate office. This is especially true if you are considering applying for residency.

The third caveat is about language. The official site is in Dutch. Large sections are in English. The Dutch is official while the English is for convenience. Often the translation is not complete or easy to understand. The translation may only give a broad sense of the law without giving the important details.

The good news is the situation is improving. I have found all of the people working for the government to be most anxious to help. Many have gone the extra mile making sure I understood everything.

The economy of Bonaire is changing. There were very

high hopes in 10-10-10. Bonaire did avoid most of the world's financial and economic collapse in 2009 and part of 2010. Hindsight made it clear the enthusiasm for 10-10-10 was an artificial economic prop for Bonaire. 10-10-10 also brought a series of unintended economic consequences. The latest ruling coalition has stated it is very anxious to turn the economy around. There have been shake-ups and changes in several departments. Several key departments have been given clear challenges to "grow" Bonaire. The coalition has made pronouncements promising to expand Bonaire's economy while maintaining Bonaire's wonderful quality of life.

Bonaire is not alone in undergoing change. The Caribbean and Central America are experiencing change and its attendant uncertainties and confusion. The issues are common. What is uncommon is the unique life style and beauty of Bonaire.

As the economy improves real estate values will improve. You can benefit from the changes on Bonaire by gathering accurate information today. With accurate information you will be prepared to benefit. With accurate information you will be getting in on the ground floor. ■ 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)

Bonaire jail cell



consists of five multi-person cells for detainees from the age of 18 to 24. Each multi-person cell can house three young people. In total, the department can house 15 detainees. Currently only seven are housed there. Consequently, prison management decided that the extra capacity should be occasionally used for the housing of female inmates. Two cells will be renovated for this purpose. The jailed young adults made clear that they didn't agree with this decision because they would have less space. On January 31, at 4 pm they refused to go back into their cells and demolished goods and furniture. The

situation was brought under control with assistance of the "internal assistance team" (*interne bijstand team*) and the police. The cost to repair the damage is to be recovered from the inmates who rioted.

►Kolegio Papa Cornes and the Pelican School will combine in a new community school.* The new building will be owned by the Bonaire local government. The Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science will assist with funding and expertise.

*Community schools come in many shapes and sizes, but the basics are much the same: "A community school offers a coherent network of accessible and good facilities for children, parents and community, with the school as the center. There is a structural collaboration between schools and one or more institutions for child care, welfare, health care, culture and sport. There is a shared vision and a continuous line in the process. There is also a financial and organizational roots in the policies and the implementation of the organizations involved." For more information go to www.bredeschool.nl/

►THE HAGUE--The Dutch Party for Freedom (PVV) wants only persons of Dutch nationality to be entitled to vote in elections. However, Home Affairs Minister Liesbeth Spies, who coincidentally is visiting the Dutch Caribbean this week, does not want to change the law.

Residents in the Netherlands and BES Islands without a Dutch passport are also entitled to vote for municipal councils, but they have to be legal residents of the Netherlands.

►THE HAGUE--The VVD party of Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte wants to restrict immigration to the Netherlands for residents of Curaçao, Aruba and St. Maarten. The proposal is not likely to go anywhere, as both coalition partner CDA and the main opposition party PvdA oppose it. Freedom party PVV—which is also "tolerating" the Rutte cabinet—wants to go even a step further by sending Antillean criminals in Holland back to their respective islands.

Something similar has been tried already on numerous occasions by other Dutch ministers such as Rita Verdonk and Hirsch-Ballin.

The only real difference is that this time Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba are not included, because they have become special overseas public entities of the Netherlands.

►THE HAGUE—Dutch Minister of Immigration, Integration and Asylum Gerd Leers supports Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, when it comes to restricting the number of foreigners who want to reside on the islands. The minister provided a break-down of the 5,000 requests for residency permits that were received in 2011:

- 1,522 were first requests (*eerste aanvraag*) of which 1,487 were approved.
- 1,780 were requests for an extension of an already granted residency permits, of which 1,755 were approved.
- 1,087 were requests for admittance by right (*toelating van rechtswege*), of which 1,075 were approved.
- 322 were requests for an indefinite residency permit were filed of which 297 were approved.
- 40 cases were approved an extension of the admittance by right.

(Continued on page 13)

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

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

Sudoku Solution

ε	ς	ϕ	τ	υ	θ	8	α	θ
τ	α	θ	ς	ε	8	τ	θ	ϕ
θ	τ	8	ε	ϕ	α	ς	ε	τ
8	θ	τ	ϕ	α	ς	θ	τ	ε
ϕ	ε	α	8	θ	τ	θ	τ	ς
θ	τ	ς	ε	θ	τ	ϕ	8	α
τ	θ	θ	τ	ς	ε	α	ϕ	8
α	ϕ	ε	θ	8	θ	τ	ς	τ
ς	8	τ	α	τ	ϕ	ε	θ	θ



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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
FEB 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
Sat 18		03:09 -0.07 ft	09:48 0.98 ft	18:08 -0.19 ft	22:52 0.18 ft	6:56	18:43
Sun 19		04:02 -0.02 ft	10:39 0.89 ft	18:59 -0.16 ft	23:57 0.21 ft	6:56	18:43
Mon 20		05:04 0.04 ft	11:32 0.78 ft	19:49 -0.11 ft		6:55	18:43
Tue 21	01:04 0.27 ft	06:19 0.10 ft	12:29 0.65 ft	20:35 -0.07 ft	New Moon	6:55	18:43
Wed 22	02:08 0.33 ft	07:50 0.14 ft	13:30 0.54 ft	21:16 -0.03 ft		6:54	18:43
Thu 23	03:03 0.41 ft	09:26 0.14 ft	14:36 0.44 ft	21:52 0.00 ft		6:54	18:44
Fri 24	03:49 0.48 ft	10:51 0.10 ft	15:42 0.36 ft	22:24 0.03 ft		6:53	18:44
Sat 25	04:28 0.55 ft	11:59 0.05 ft	16:43 0.30 ft	22:52 0.05 ft		6:53	18:44
Sun 26	05:03 0.61 ft	12:52 -0.00 ft	17:35 0.26 ft	23:18 0.05 ft		6:52	18:44
Mon 27	05:36 0.67 ft	13:37 -0.04 ft	18:20 0.23 ft	23:44 0.05 ft		6:52	18:44
Tue 28	06:09 0.72 ft	14:19 -0.08 ft	18:58 0.20 ft			6:51	18:44
Wed 29	First Quar- ter	00:11 0.03 ft	06:42 0.76 ft	14:58 -0.10 ft	19:32 0.18 ft	6:51	18:45
MARCH Thu 01		00:38 0.02 ft	07:16 0.80 ft	15:36 -0.11 ft	20:06 0.16 ft	6:50	18:45
Fri 02		01:08 0.00 ft	07:52 0.82 ft	16:14 -0.11 ft	20:40 0.15 ft	6:50	18:45

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 12)

► **THE HAGUE—Dutch Queen Beatrix celebrated her 74th birthday on Tuesday, February 1, making her the oldest reigning monarch in Dutch history.** The previous record holder was King Willem III, who died on the throne at the age of 73 years and 277 days. There has been increasing speculation in recent weeks that Queen Beatrix may be about to step down in favor of her son, Crown Prince Willem-Alexander.

► **Be sure to check out the Green Label Garden Center new website:**
<http://greenlabelbonaire.nl/>

It contains an incredible amount of informa-
tion about gardening and planting in Bonaire.

Karnaval Schedule



February

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 INPO on Kaya Debrot
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

Included are landscaping photos and services
that are available. It's quite an accomplish-
ment and worth a look if you love the nature
of Bonaire. Although in Dutch, Google will
translate it to English or Spanish on the fly.

► **Norca's Deli Café offers a special Indo-
nesian Rijsttafel (rice table)** for early dinner
by reservation, Monday through Saturday.
Gather a party of two to 12 and enjoy the
feast of Dutch-Indonesian dishes. Norca is
one of the best chefs on the island—in her
restaurant and by catering to very happy din-
ers. Norca's is upstairs from Botika Bonaire
on Kaya Grandi. Tel. 717-4376

► **Join the next GoGreen Farmers' Market
on Saturday, February 26.** You are invited
to come to buy or sell. Sellers may rent a table
for \$4. Call for information at 700-5488.

► **Want to volunteer to help a public
service project? BONDOET (see page
18 for details) is organizing volunteer
activity days on March 16 and 17.**
Register your project at the NGO Platform.
Registrations are picking up. Be part of this
great community effort. Register today:
Email: bondoet2012@gmail.com,
www.bondoet.nl or call 717-2824.

► Coming Soon:

A relocated Bistro de Paris restaurant at
the hotel side of the Harbour Village Ma-
rina... with an air-conditioned room.
2012 stickers for license plates at the Civil
Registry. There have been some complaints
they are of poor quality.

► **Congratulations to Jan Brouwer on the
publication of his 100th "Bonaire On
Wheels"** column. Who knew that Bonaire
had so many interesting things "on wheels."
Turn to page 9 to read it.

► **Be sure to start training for the 10th An-
nual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon** that
will be held on March 4. ■ G./L.D.

Great Fishing!



A couple of the Wahoo brought in by local fishermen



Blue Marlin being released from the Nany

The 24th International and Local Fishing Tournament was a great success. There was a record turn-out with 26 boats in the International section with one coming from Venezuela, three from Aruba, 14 from Curaçao, one registered in St Maarten and seven from Bonaire. The locals turned out in force with 14 boats and were the only ones to bring in any fish to the dock. The International Class boats released all the fish they hooked. We owe in part this success to the excellent cooperation that we received from Customs and Immigration, clearing all of the boats in and out at our event venue rather than forcing all of the crews to go to the offices. This was a great help and was well appreciated by all.

International Class

In the International section there were **eight Blue Marlin** and **four sail fish** brought to the boat and released. At least another four were hooked and lost before reaching the boat. The big boats were looking to the prize money and were only aiming for the big Blues. The prizes for Largest Wahoo, Most Wahoo, Largest Tuna, Most Tuna, Largest Dorado and Most Dorado all went unclaimed! *Naira* from Aruba accumulated 450 points to go home with the 1st place prize of \$5,000, with the last fish caught only minutes before the time limit of the tournament. 2nd Prize went to *Speedy* from Curaçao for \$3500, raised an additional \$500 from the original \$3000 to settle a difference in the interpretation between the wording in the rules and the wording in the prize list. The Jury also decided to honor both interpretations, by awarding 2, 3rd place prizes, each for \$2,000. One 3rd prize award stayed home on Bonaire with the boat *Nany* and the other went to *Time Share* from Curaçao.

The crew of *Rotia 1* went back to Venezuela with a hand held GPS and VHF radio for catching the first bill fish of the tournament. Freddie Coralez, also from *Rotia 1*, won a pair of binoculars for Best Captain as he was the only captain to also catch a fish. *Best Angler* went to Gabriel Requena, on board *Naira* from Aruba as the only fisherman to catch two fish. He won a Penn reel to catch the next one with!

Local Fishing Class

The local fisherman brought in a nice selection of fish including Wahoo, Tuna, Rainbow runners and various Snappers. This year the fisherman were able to keep their own catch so there were some happy chefs ready to pick up some fresh catch of the day!

-1st prize of \$800 went to **Celsio Thielman on the boat Kivan**, with 83 kg of fish.

-**Double Eagle** took 2nd prize with 51.5 kg so **Eddi Coffi**, went home with \$400.

-**Jason Muller on Molly M** cashed in for \$200 for 3rd prize with 28 kg of fish.

The festival was also an enormous success with plenty of drinks flowing at the bar, excellent food and lots of music and fun. This great event would not have been possible without the assistance of all of the sponsors, which included It Rains Fishes, Napa, Budget Marine, Window Wizard, Bonaire Marine Center, Heineken, Spice, Akkermans Auto Supplies, Rocargo, Bonaco, Bonaire Warehouse Total Car Rental and



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Happy 99th Birthday



Pabien Mr. Romualdo 'Hopi aña mas di bida!
February 6, 1913

That was the day that Isaac Romualdo Coffi was born in Antriol, 99 years ago! On February 6, 2012, he celebrated this very special birthday in Playa, surrounded by family and friends, his stepdaughter Carmen Bislip-Gravenhorst and his two grandchildren, Geraldine and Michael Coffi (above).

Romualdo left Bonaire in 1936 and moved to Aruba where he worked for the Lago Refinery for 30 years, without missing one single day!

In 1966 he retired and went to live in Holland and in 1992 he returned to Aruba for good. Last year it was the first time he was back on Bonaire and then he decided to celebrate his 99th birthday on Bonaire at the house of his granddaughter, Geraldine Coffi, of whom he says, "She is such a sweet girl. She's my darling."

It was a full house and a party deserving of a celebrity and Romualdo kept a cigar and a lighter ready for later. His mind is clear, his eyes and hearing are perfect. His memory is fabulous, his handwriting is beautiful, his handshake a tight grip and he still likes to see a good-looking woman...

Happy Birthday Mr. Coffi and many, many more to come! ■

Greta Kooistra

MCB bank. No records were broken, so the Toyota Pickup remains in the pot for next year! For the 25th anniversary we are looking forward to again breaking the record in participation with a yet bigger and better event. Large boat, small boat or spectator, we look forward to seeing you all there next year. ■

Pam Tietel, Budget Marine

Editor's Note:

In a Bonaire billfish tournament all fish caught must be released and not boated. A catch is immediately disqualified if killed.

In our last edition we published pictures of two dead sailfish. This was a mistake as the photos were NOT from this tournament. We apologize for this and giving wrong impression about the event. -G.D.

Enjoy Our Reef Fishes
Let's Not Eat Them

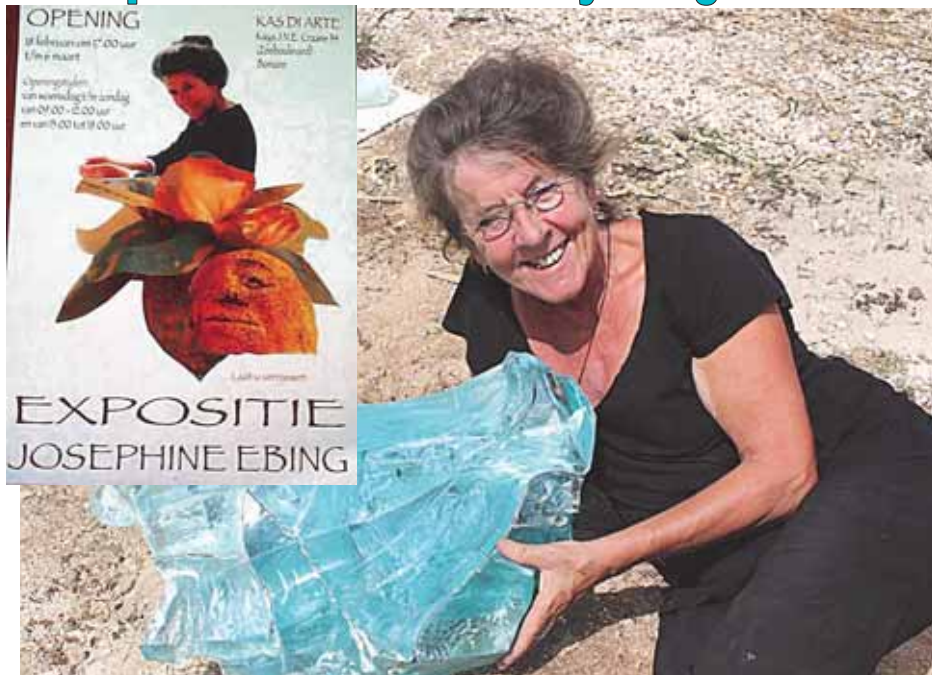
A message from
Caribbean reef pioneer
CAPTAIN DON STEWART

Captain Don

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

Artwork by Dominique Serafini

Sculptures From a Truly Original Mind



Josephine and her precious stone

JOSEPHINE EBONG

She is a magician. She has the all-seeing eye and the power to create a reality of the image she sees in her mind. She lives in a container with ocean view which she organized as if it were a little ship at sea. And the very moment you enter her terrain your eyes are caught by transparent turquoise “rocks” which seem to be coagulated sea water. And in the blink of an eye the web closes around you and you find yourself in a different world, one of beauty, light, strength and serenity. You can’t discuss art and I won’t go into that, but sometimes in your life you get a view into a truly original mind and those are magic moments.

“I came here in 1994 – 18 years ago – for four months. My two daughters – Charlotte and Monique – and my friends – had given me a handmade globe with money in it for my 50th birthday. I raised my two daughters by myself as I could not be married. They all got jealous of my work and I just love to be alone! Well, I went through some travel brochures and Bonaire struck me as the most unique island. I am a stonemason – a sculptor. That’s my profession and because of Bonaire I also started working with wood from the sea. But my first year here I mainly used mother coral – the lightest kind of coral I would find along the coast, coral of which they say it

could float and from that coral I made dark people.

After four months I had to go home because of financial reasons, but from that year on, a friend of mine, Theo van Teeseling, who sadly passed away, made sure that I could come here every year for a longer period of time taking care of someone’s house, so I had the space and time to work.

In Holland in 1970 I started out teaching myself. Then I took lessons from a sculptor and in 1979 I had my first exposition. From then on it went fast. From 1983 to 1987 I took art classes with a friend of mine. She’s Russian and lives in Switzerland. When I was 49 I went to the Art Academy in Antwerp and after two exams I was accepted by the Higher Institute and started working with professors. For 10 years I also gave classes.

In 1999 I stayed on Bonaire for a longer time. Before I came I’d filled up some chests with all the work I had and shipped it to Bonaire. From Hugo Gerharts I got a space on Kaya Grandi and that’s where I had my first exhibition on the island. It lasted for six weeks. Every Sunday I invited writers, poets and others to recite from their works. One of the people who came walking into the exhibition was Ronald Verhoeven and together he and I started Artebon in 2001, where Kas di Arte is now. Ronald and I repaired the



One of the lotus flowers which will be exhibited at Kas di Arte from February 18

building. Alfred Ronde became the chairman of the Foundation and it was opened by Genia Cicilia-El Hage.

Then Frans Booi told us about the mythology of Bonaire and the Caribbean and Ronald and I started working independently of each other and... you won’t believe it, our work fitted like a glove – Ronald’s paintings and my sculptures. For instance when he painted the myth of the turtle, I had sculptured it without knowing what he was doing. That’s how it went with all our works. Often people would buy the painting and the sculpture. It was unbelievable!

Artebon existed for three or four years, then it changed into Kas di Arte –with a new board and a new name. I went on with the exhibitions at a different location but again in Kaya Grandi and again with Ronald Verhoeven.

In 1999 I also participated in Arte ’99 on Curaçao, organized because 500 years ago Curaçao had been put on the map of the world. I sent in three works of which they chose one and I was selected to participate. Nochi Coffie and I were representing Bonaire. They chose a stone of alabaster of which I had created the head of an Antillean with a child in his brain. He always

carries the child in his head – something white people lose rapidly because they focus more on reason. I feel if you want a little bit of happiness, you have to make sure never to lose the child that’s inside of you.

I still come here every year and now that I have my own golden spot in the middle of town I come here half-half. After 18 years on Bonaire I am still fully inspired and that has to do with everything that washes ashore and the roaring sea with all those shades of green and blue and turquoise. Then I comb the beach for four hours without knowing that four hours have passed by and I find the most beautiful pieces of wood. The wood itself tells me what it wants to become and so does the stone and I always leave a part of the stone untouched and original so you know ‘where it comes from.’

Two years ago I became 65 and I made this enormous work of 3.5 meters high, weighing 200 kilos – a trunk of a tree. It took four gentlemen to carry it and that’s why I could only show it here on my terrain. Out of the tree trunk came a mermaid and a ram with the all-seeing eye and Richard and Indira bought it and they had

Continued on page 18

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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.

Caribbean Homes and Yachts—Top notch, knowledgeable sales staff to sell your present home or find your next home.



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

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.

RETAIL

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

SECURITY

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

STORAGE

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



SHIPPING

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



SPAS/GYM

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



Face and Body Day Spa by Nubia.

Professional massage therapy, facials, reflexology, lymph drainage, Shiatsu, deep tissue massage and other body and facial treatments

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.

FOR SALE – Sailboat
"One and All" 19ft. Micro 5.5



Mercury 5HP outboard, retractable keel, sails, etc. This boat has crossed the Atlantic with a single handed captain! \$6500

Call 717-2675, email: ianinbc@me.com

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Up to 27 people and supported by a brand new larger sister Catamaran *Kantika Too*
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Daily trips via resorts 10 am, 12 , 2 pm Except Sundays at 10 am only
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Tie up dockside for min. \$10/day+tax
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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	2/16/	Caribbean Princess	1200-1900	3100	Princess Cruises
MON	2/20/	Emerald Princess	0700-1400	3100	Princess Cruises
WED	2/22/	Grandeur of the Seas	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
SUN	2/26/	Maasdam	0800-1700	1258	HAL
SUN	2/26/	Island Sky	1300-1900	114	Noble Caledonia
MON	2/27/	Ventura	0800-1800	1950	P&O Cruises
TUE	2/28/	AidaLuna	1000-1800	2050	AIDA Cruises
WED	2/29/	Noordam	0800-1700	1918	HAL
THU	3/1/	Caribbean Princess	1200-1900	3100	Princess Cruises
FRI	3/2/	Zuiderdam	0800-1700	1918	HAL

Cruise Ship Calls -Information provided by the TCB

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Saturday, February 18—
Opening of Josephine Ebings Sculpture Exhibit at Kas di Art. See page 15 for details. Exhibition continues through March 6.

Sunday, February 19
-Grand Karnaval Parade in Playa, 3 pm-7 pm. Complete Karnaval schedule on page 13

- 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.

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

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

Saturday, March 31 — Wim Statius Muller and Tika Giel, Classic European and Antillean songs. Concert organized by Bonaire's Classical Music Board at the Plaza Resort

Sunday, April 1—34th Annual Kite Contest. Fabulous kites from the ABC islands. Call Iris at Bonaire Book Shop 717-6586.

April 5—9 –10th MCB International Tennis Open, Harbour Village Tennis Center.

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 Kri-abon, Kaminda Jato 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 Koeke 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. Live music starts at 4 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, 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



"Floeke"

Regal and elegant but very, very sad. That's "Floeke," a "special needs" dog at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. Floeke's owner went to Venezuela for a new job and was not allowed to bring him with him. So Floeke was brought to the Shelter. This eight year old dog was so miserable from missing his owner that he didn't eat and got down to near skin and bones, worrying the Shelter staff. He's just beginning to eat again but as you can probably see from his expression he's still very unhappy. The Shelter staff thinks he is a great dog—social and relaxed—but what he really needs to bring him back to life is a new master or mistress whom he can devote himself to and love. If you think you can be that person who gives this wonderful dog a chance at a good life, stop by the Shelter on the Lagoen Road and meet Floeke.

The \$75 dog adoption fee includes vet exam, shots, worming, sterilization and even an id chip. The Shelter is open Monday through Friday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. www.bonaireanimalshelter.com

If you or someone you know has an animal with what you think is **mange**, call the Shelter. They will send someone out to give the animal a shot to cure this debilitating disease. This service is free, compliments of the Shelter.

Parvo Alert: The animal killer disease, Parvo, is still running wild on the island. Protect your dog from the age of six weeks with a yearly Parvo "cocktail shot" at the vet's. Puppies under six weeks should be immune through their mother's milk, provided she has received her shot. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*

Josephine Ebing (Continued from page 15)

it placed in front of their house.

My latest work, which will be shown at Kas di Arte from February 18 to March 6, is about lotus flowers made out of copper and the turquoise glass. It all has to do with a friend of mine, Ki'i. She has Alzheimers and we started looking for a place for her, which we found at this estate called 'Klein Engelenburg' in Brummen, Holland. Often an estate is very green but there are not so many flowers and Ki'i loves flowers. I see her fragile and fleet-footed, like a flower, and I made those lotuses for her because we went through sadness and a very difficult transformation to a different life. It was a farewell but also a new beginning for both of us in our friendship. The lotus symbolizes pureness and a new birth.

The exposition of my lotus flowers in Holland was held at the estate where Ki'i now lives. From her chair she can see the flowers through her window. She and I always used to come here together and this is the first time I am here without her. In that sense I had to let go of her and so it is also for me a new beginning.

At the exposition at Kas di Arte I will have, amongst others, seven lotus flowers and a pregnant woman. It will be interesting. Often, when I make something and it's just finished – or not even so - people want it and then I tell them, 'No, I want to keep it with me for a while.' And sometimes I make a form and a bronze and I keep the original for myself..." Her eyes wander around and a fine smile curls around the corners of her mouth. She looks at me and says, "My assignment in life – the way I see it – is to create beauty." ■ *Greta Kooistra*

Did You Know...

... That the endangered Nassau grouper (photo at right) is one of the few native Caribbean fish that is known to occasionally eat lionfish? A recent study found that areas with larger populations of groupers have lower lionfish numbers (Mumby et al. 2011), and it is believed that this is due to the groupers feeding on lionfish and their young, as well as from the competition that these two species have with each other for prey. In fact, it has been suggested that groupers (and possibly Nassau groupers in particular) are more effective at controlling lionfish than people! Overfishing of groupers is widespread throughout the Caribbean and has compromised one of the few defenses that the local reefs have. ■ **Stephen Nelson**

Stephen Nelson is a fourth-year student at Oregon State University studying Biology with an emphasis on Marine Biology. He was among the students in the CIEE Bonaire program for the fall of 2011. Edited by Caren Eckrich

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



Photo Credit: Florent's Guide



Nos ta on! Abo tambe?
www.nldoet.nl/bon

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 717-2834

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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

THE BRIGHTEST OF THE BRIGHT

Let's talk about the **five brightest nighttime objects of 2012**. Visible even from downtown, these celestial wonders are sure to capture your imagination.

Of course, we have to begin with the **Moon** - #1 brightest nighttime object. How can you not be awed by the sight of a **full Moon** rising above the eastern horizon? Or a thin, delicate crescent cradling the darkened orb after sunset?

This week the Moon is visible in the morning just before sunrise. It's called a **waning crescent** and will soon move to the invisible phase called **new Moon** on February 21st when it will be almost directly in front of the **Sun**.

But next week, on February 23rd you'll see the slimmest of **waxing crescents** right after sunset, low in the west. And each night after that, the Moon will appear fuller and fuller and farther from the sun. Keep looking for the smiley face.

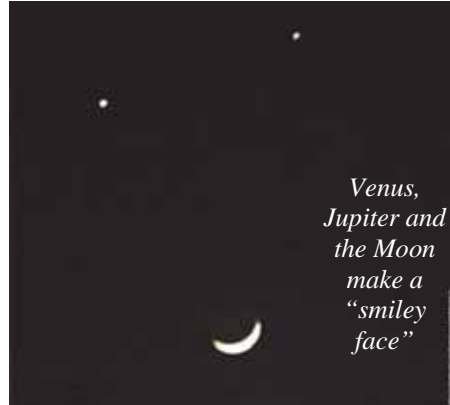
Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Is it a UFO? No, that's the second brightest nighttime object, the dazzling **planet Venus**. Venus is the brightest star-like object in the night sky and can now be seen in the evening low in the west

Venus is so incredibly bright because the planet is perpetually covered in clouds - and these clouds reflect sunlight much better than any other planet. Venus is about 86 million miles away right now but will be getting closer each day and will be blazing away in the evening skies until May.

Now when we look ahead to February 26th again we'll see the crescent Moon next to the third brightest nighttime object - the giant **planet Jupiter**.

There is no mistaking Jupiter's steady, cream-colored glow. With even a small telescope, Jupiter reveals a hidden system of four moons, **Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto**.

Next up let's look to the southeast for **Sirius**, aka the dog star. Sirius is seriously bright - making it the fourth brightest nighttime object. The name Sirius comes from a Greek word meaning searing or scorching. And it lives up to its



Venus, Jupiter and the Moon make a "smiley face"

name, since it's twice as bright as any other star in the sky.

Sirius appears so bright because it is so close - relatively speaking. At only 8.5 light years away, the dog star is the fifth closest star to us. Look for Sirius rising in the southeast after dark.

Number 5 on our list is another planet who's been brightening up as we rapidly approach it - the **red planet, Mars**. Mars is bright but its color is what really stands out. Although it's called the red planet, it looks orange to the naked eye.

But this is about as close as Mars will be to us this year. There you have it, the top five brightest nighttime objects.

Get out there and find the Moon, Venus, Jupiter, Sirius, and Mars tonight. The Moon will be right next to Venus on the 25th. Right next to Jupiter on the 26th. And then look for sparkling Sirius in the southeast and orangey Mars in the east.

Now, technically there are brighter things in the sky; man-made objects.

Several **satellites** reflect enough sunlight to appear brighter than the brightest stars. They're usually visible within an hour before sunrise or within an hour after sunset. The **International Space Station** can outshine Jupiter and a fleet of satellites called **Iridium Satellites** can shine almost 100 times brighter than Venus. Check out websites like heavens-above.com to find out when the Space Station or other satellites will go over your home. ■ *Dean Regas & James Albury*



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
February 2012

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Take a close look at documents before signing on the dotted line. Socially, you need a fast paced form of entertainment. Loved ones may be annoyed if they feel restricted. Go out with friends. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Pay off all your debts before you go out and celebrate. Get help to finish a project if you need it. Be careful while traveling. Your ability to talk circles around your colleagues will help you forge ahead in the work-force. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Don't force your opinions on friends or relatives unless you are prepared to lose their favor. Don't do something silly just to get back at your mate. Opportunities to meet new lovers will come through pleasure trips or social events. Try not to allow your partner to lead you astray or upset your routine. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Your intellectual charm will win hearts and bring opportunities that you least expect. Arguing won't help. Romantic opportunities are evident if you get involved in large groups or organizations. You may be tempted to get involved in secret affairs or love triangles. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Your leadership qualities will come in handy. Try not to be too harsh with loved ones; there will always be two sides to an issue. However, you should be concerned about what they want in return. You may be overly emotional when dealing with your mate. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) The advice you get this month may be based on false information. Your efforts won't go unnoticed; however, someone you work with may get jealous. Your outgoing nature might work against you this month. Your ability to deal with humanitarian groups will enhance your reputation. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You will have to be sure not to burn the candle at both ends. Express your interest if you want the

relationship to progress. Home improvement projects will enhance your residence and bring the family closer together. You may think gifts will win their heart, but it could add stress from lack of funds. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) To avoid any minor health problems, don't get too stressed. Your personal partner may be less than willing to accommodate you this month. You are best to ask questions if you aren't certain about issues that are confronting you. Friends or groups that you're affiliated with may want you to contribute more cash than you can really afford. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Get down to business and do the work yourself. Don't overlook that fact that someone you care about may be hiding something. Visitors are likely to drop by and chances are, they may even stay a little longer than you want them to. Someone you like may be receptive and actively seeking your company. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You could be your own worst enemy if you overreact to something you're told. Don't let others restrict you from saying how you feel about family issues. Observations will be far more productive. You can continue to forge ahead if you make a few long distance calls pertinent to closing pending deals. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You could have a change of heart if an old flame waltzes back into your life. You are best to keep hard feelings to yourself. Minor health problems may lower your vitality. Don't be too eager to dismiss someone who works under you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) If you are not already, think about going into business for yourself. Lending and borrowing may be a problem. Take the time to help old friends or relatives who have had a stroke of bad luck. You should get into some of those creative hobbies that you always said you wanted to do. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday. ■

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Waterlands Village 24**

This great vacation home is located in the Waterlands Village Park, a variety of 24 homes in a secluded environment with communal pool, private docks and beach. This area is well known for its great rental possibilities and comfortable semi-permanent living within walking distance of "Donkey Beach" and the Caribbean Sea. Because of its location, this unit catches a great breeze so you can relax and cool down on the terrace outside. Lay out: entrance into living room and well equipped open kitchen, pantry, master bedroom with en suite bathroom and separate private outdoor shower, bedroom with en suite bathroom with access to guest toilet, covered terrace. The bungalow is sold fully furnished. Lot size: 2669 ft² (248 m²). Living area: 1883 ft² (175 m²)



Asking price US\$ 250,000

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