

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE June 22-July 6, 2012, Year 19, Issue 13
The REPORTER

Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Goat Farm Visit

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Flotsam and Jetsam

BONAIRE The REPORTER

The introduction of the US dollar in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba has only played a minor role in the sharp rise in prices on the islands according to a the findings of a buying power investigation carried out by independent companies, Ecorys of The Netherlands and Curconsult of Curaçao, by order of the Dutch Ministry of Interior Affairs and Kingdom Relations BZK. According to them the local business sector used the switch from the Antillean Guilder to the US Dollar to round prices upwards. The main explanations for the significant price increases are:

- **the higher price of fuel, which in turn increases the cost of electricity and transport;**
- **the increase in world prices of food and raw materials;**
- **the increase in transportation cost, because of higher excise tax on fuel**

The report stated that double taxation of goods being transported to Bonaire was not a factor because an arrangement was already in place between Bonaire and Curaçao. But that has not happened, which makes the results of other findings suspect in the mind of some people.

► **THE HAGUE--The Tax Office of the Caribbean Netherlands last year imposed a total assessment of some \$108 million in taxes and social premiums on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.** The largest chunk that was assessed concerned the general spending tax ABB: \$32.4 million. The Tax Office had calculated the levy would be about \$10 million less than receipts.

This does not take into account property tax for 2011 which would add about \$4 million. The property tax assessments will be sent out later this year. However, for various reasons, the Dutch Government said that the revenues for 2011 were not yet available, but consulting firms, Ecorys and Curconsult, say that the collective burden on the islands in 2011 has sharply increased in comparison to previous years partly because of the stricter compliance of the new system of taxes and social insurance premiums.

► The recent additional **"free allowance" (vrije uitkering) payment** from The Netherlands for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba of \$8.2 million per year announced last week probably won't lessen the unrest on Bonaire resulting from the island's integration into Holland, but it shouldn't hurt either. Bonaire's free allowance will increase by US \$4.9 million to US \$24.9 million per year. The islands have been complaining that the free allowance was too low for the local gov-

ernments to properly carry out their tasks, let alone to make infrastructure investments. Dutch caretaker Minister of Interior Affairs and Kingdom Relations Liesbeth Spies further announced a grant of \$800,000 to tackle socio-economic issues.

Dutch Ministries, in addition to the free allowance, are making significant investments in public health and education. Together with the Island Government, the Dutch Government will be making additional funds available for investment in essential facilities in the islands such as drinking water, waste management, airport safety, school buildings and libraries.

► **THE HAGUE--Dutch political parties are releasing their programs one by one for the September 12 elections, but few are dedicating more than a few words to the Dutch Caribbean islands and Kingdom relations.** However, the **Socialist Party (SP) feels that The Netherlands should offer custom-made solutions for the issues that the BES islands face.** It said that The Hague had approached the three islands in a manner that was too Dutch, too rigid, overlooking the fact that those communities have specific issues that could not be compared to society in The Netherlands.

► On Tuesday, June 19, at 2 pm, the construction display board of the new correctional institution (prison) was dedicated by Governor Mrs. dr. Lydia Emerencia at the site of the buildings at Aruba plantation.

The new correctional institution will have a capacity of 94 cells, with space for men, women and juveniles. According to the planning the new building will be ready by mid-2015. This facility is in addition to the prison recently completed in downtown Kralendijk. **Is this the start of a new opportunity for Bonaire- Penitentiary Tourism?**

► On Tuesday, June 12 **Ms. H. Aniek Schouten was appointed as a Bonaire notary by royal decree.** She had been performing notarial tasks since notary Maarten Maarten passed away in March. Ms. Schouten has spent 10 years working in the notary's office. Besides the name, nothing changes for clients or employees. Ms. Schouten said, "I have always really enjoyed working at this office and I am excited and



proud to have it under my own name and to be allowed to continue."

► **The Bonaire police headquarters is moving temporarily to three separate locations to help accelerate reconstruction at the present headquarters at Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar 4.**



The new temporary locations are:

1) **Primary policing** will work out of the building on Kaya LD Gerharts 6 (the former SEK building). Here you can ask your questions and make declarations. This building is open 24 hours a day.

2) **The Chief of Police, Communication and Management** will be at Kaya Grandi 49 (above Maduro travel), with the entrance of the building at the rear of the building.

3) The sections **Special Laws, Traffic, Youth Affairs and bario directors** will be on the 1st floor of Les Galleries, Kaya LD Gerharts 8.

All phone numbers and email addresses remain the same: Emergency number 911 - General police number 717 8000 - General e-mail address politie@politiecn.com - Hotline 717-7251

THE NETHERLANDS- -The Central Bank of the Netherlands DNB fears that the Dutch economy will show no signs of recovery this year and, from a historical perspective, will only have limited growth in the next. The DNB noted that high mortgage debt, inadequate economic growth and falling housing prices are making households, banks and the government increasingly vulnerable.

► On March 20, 2012, the **Stop Dengue Bonaire foundation was established** to prevent a repetition of the dengue "outbreak" of 2011. The foundation consists entirely of volunteers with the mission to "Achieve and maintain a Bonaire without dengue."



The Board of the Foundation consists of: Louis Wierda (Chairman), Nicholas Ludo (Vice President), Mariëlla Buddha (treasurer), Anneke Visser (Secretary), Petra Meese and John Le Noble. The foundation plans to publish a practical brochure in four languages, set up a website with information about dengue, organizing

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How to contact us

Find Bonaire Reporter on Facebook. Press "like"
Letters to the Editor:
Reporter@bonairenews.com
Story tip or idea:
info@bonairenews.com
The Publisher:
George@bonairenews.com

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) actions in collaboration with Society Board and Care, Department of Public Health to include awareness of dengue to enhance and support the elimination of breeding sites.

► Before the end of 2012, the Netherlands will set up a marine mammal sanctuary for whales and dolphins in the Dutch Caribbean waters. This is one of the outcomes of a meeting organized by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (*Economische Zaken, Landbouw en Innovatie - EL&I*) on June 4 and 5 on St. Maarten. The Dutch Islands in the Caribbean, France, the US, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela discussed the cooperation for whale sanctuaries. Whales like the humpback whale often migrate thousands of kilometers from cold northern waters in summer to the tropical Caribbean Sea in winter so that cooperation is necessary for effective protection.

MiVaB 
Handicap Association Bonaire

► MiVaBo, the organization that fights for a more modern policy for the disabled on Bonaire, went online last week with a new web site. The site, www.mivabo.org, is interesting for anyone who has a disability, family or friends with disabilities or professionals working with disabled people. It is the first local website on disability care and advocacy.

► Mark it on your calendar: The 20th edi-

tion of *Dia di Arte, "Bonaire's Art Day"* on July 8th from 11am till 11pm at Wilhelmina Park. Get to know Bonairean artists, musicians and writers, together with some international stars. After the official opening there will be an exhibition of local dance and painting for the children. All day there will be live bands. You may buy CDs of local music, paintings and handcrafts. Sample delicious Creole dishes, seafood, homemade lemon and tamarind juice, fruit punch, chocolate, candy and cakes. The kids can enjoy organized games while you relax with a cold beer or a soft drink. Do not miss this unique opportunity.



► Want a 9% Raise? Hit the Gym. According to a study published in the June issue of the *Journal of Labor Research*, workers who exercise regularly earn 9% higher pay on average than those who don't. If it's any motivation for workers, the study suggests time at the gym pays for itself, and then some. In May, the average American worker earned \$23.41 an hour. Assuming three hours of exercise per week, a typical worker's time spent huffing and puffing is valued by the labor market at \$70.23. His extra pay over a 40-hour work week is worth \$84.28 -- about 20% more, better than

almost any other investment you can make. There are other rewards, not financial, such as lower health care costs and the ability to remain productive into old age. If you want to see if exercise can work for you visit the **Bon Bida Spa and Gym** across from the Sand Dollar Resort. See their ad on page 6.

► Green Label, the island's top garden center, has changed its opening hours. They now are Monday- Friday: 7:30 -noon and 2- 5:30pm. Saturdays: 8 am to 1 pm.

► A new company, **Bike Rental Delivery**,



is offering "Dutch," city, mountain and, a first for Bonaire, electric bikes that can take you 60 km on a single charge. Rolf Cech and his wife, Annemiek, had a "two-wheel" company in Holland but now have relocated on Bonaire. Delivery and pickup of bikes are free. Look for the yellow van. Their website, www.bikerentalbonaire.com, will be up shortly or you can contact them via email at info@bikerentalbonaire.com or phone 786-1166 / 786-2329.

► Readers! Remember to remind the places where you shop that they should advertise in *The Reporter*. It's they who make it "Still Free!" ■ G.D.

We have received numerous inquiries regarding a memorial service for Jake Richter who passed away on June 1. (see the June 8-22 edition of *The Bonaire Reporter*). His widow, Linda Richter passed on the following information:



- Jake is being cremated in the US.
- His family tentatively plans to return to Bonaire in October to scatter some of his ashes in the sea. A memorial service is planned.

- Linda suggests that any donations in Jake's name can be made to:

Support Bonaire, Inc.
www.SupportBonaire.org the organization that provides US residents the ability to make tax-deductible donations to various non-profit Bonaire foundations. Founded by the Richters.


Massachusetts General Hospital – Melanoma Center

<http://www.massgeneral.org/give/howtohelp/#outright>

Community Hospice House in Merrimack, NH

https://secure.hhhc.org/special_events/donation.php

Messages or expressions of condolence can be sent to linda@lindarichter.com or posted on Jake or Linda's Facebook pages. ■ G.D.



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On the Island Since... April 2009 - Mieke Stooß

"I started visiting the island in 2004 because my friend Felicia came to live here. And you know, living in Germany and be invited to spend some time in the Caribbean—it was appealing! The first visit I was totally overwhelmed. I had never been in the Caribbean before and it was a new world for me. I had traveled to Australia and Canada and all over Europe, but here everything was different. When I arrived at 3:30 in the morning, the doors of the plane opened and I was in the tropics – it was amazing! I stayed for two and a half weeks and Felicia took me around and introduced me to her friends and when the time came I had to go, I was connected to the island and the people.

Felicia had told me, 'When you get home, you will most likely suffer from a post-Bonairean depression and you will want to come back.' And that's what happened, already on the way home. Since then I visited Bonaire every year. At the time I was a marketing manager of a company that produced elastic netted fabrics and I had a lot of international contacts and my desire to live abroad grew. I was curious; 'how does it feel – how does

it taste' and it would also be a little adventure, but at the same time I was very happy with my life in Germany. However, I wanted to add Bonaire to my life as well, but I had no clue how to make that possible. Then my life in Germany changed and somehow I wished for a bigger change in my life, but nothing was set and I didn't have a plan. Again I went to Bonaire and then I met Jan (Okhuijsen) and we fell in love and three months later I was living here. It went fast, but I didn't want to live without Jan one day longer!

I had three favorite spots in the world: Lake Constance, Canada and Bonaire and I keep on saying, if Jan would have lived in Timbuktu I would have moved there, but, lucky me, it was Bonaire! And I was lucky again because soon after I found a job at Buddy Dive in reservations. If you start a new life it's great to have a job, not only for the money, but it also helps you to integrate into the community. We – Jan and I and my dog Idefix, whom I took with me from Germany – lived in Antriol and it was really nice for me coming from an apartment, because we had a great space and a whole house. And living most

of the time outdoors was something I'd always wanted. I could even ride my bike to work; it was very convenient. Six months later the house was broken into and what little things I'd brought from Germany were gone. So, we moved to one of those little islands next to Caribbean Court. It was a very nice place; we had the eagle rays and the turtles swimming under the balcony – pretty cool!

I've been here three years and where we live now is our third house! In 2010 our little dog Gina came as a companion for Idefix. Jan and I were both working so he was alone all day. Then I went to the Shelter and found his magic match, Miss Gina! She is a very smart dog; she even uses the cat-flap. We can tell when the flap goes really silent it's our cat Lily. When it goes a bit louder it's our cat Marlene and when it sounds like a burglar trying to get in, it's Gina squirming herself through the cat-flap.

The day we got the cats from the Shelter, we locked them up in the bedroom so



Mieke at home

they would get used to their new place. Then the dogs went outside and jumped on the table in front of the window to see what was going on in there! We have so much fun with these animals. They belong to the family. And here, on the island, you have space and the opportunity to have pets.

I am not working for Buddy Dive anymore. Nowadays I am the marketing manager for a German dive tour operator. That's my bread and butter and I can do

(Continued on page 5)

"Thanks to Bonaire I am allowed just to be me and to make my own choices and to feel relatively free."

Ambassador's Surprise



Friend Agnes Joosten, Helen Thode from TCB, Silver Medal Ambassador Annemarie Würscing from Germany, young friend Elena Werdath, daughter, Ursula Würscing, friends Diane Werdath, Peter Werdath and Angelika, a friend from Germany

Bonaire has honored dozens of its repeat visitors as "Ambassadors" but none have received the surprise treatment that was arranged for Annemarie Würscing. Mrs. Würscing had no idea her daughter, Ursula, a former dive instructor on Bonaire, had made arrangements for her Ambassador Reward. In Ursula's words, "I went ahead and invited most of the people she has been around during her visits to Bonaire. It was quite difficult to do all the shopping for food and drinks without her noticing. To make her dress up a little I told her one friend, Angelika, would be visiting. Angelika was one of the first Germans I met on the island when I came to live here. Many Germans and Swiss expats on the island have 'adopted' my mother as she doesn't speak any other language but German.

It was so funny as TCB showed up early and not all the friends were there yet. They decided to drive around a little to give people time to arrive. When finally everybody arrived she was just stunned that all her friends had made it possible to enjoy that special moment together with her. Even later at night she constantly would say that how incredible this surprise was for her.

Next year there will be no surprise because now she knows that she will receive the Gold Award for 20 years visiting Bonaire. At the age of 87 March this year she is determined to undergo the hardships of the trip from Germany to the island one more time to be on island in October and of course next year for the Big 20." ■ G.D/press release



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On The Island Since... (continued from page 4)

that from my office at home. I love it a lot and it's contributing to this freedom my life on Bonaire is about.

It's still like a dream and it still feels like an adventure, but I also found my routine. I fight deadlines, I have stress getting the work done. When you have an office at home and you love your job and you feel connected to the team and the job – before you know it you've worked many, many more hours than at a regular job. But what's still cool is that after finishing work, there is an instant vacation feeling. Also, when you go to the ocean, before starting the day, it makes you realize how precious it is to be able to live here."

Meike is a relaxed and pensive person, a positive, well organized girl who made her home on Bonaire and it worked out well. All together, pets and people, it's a happy clan.

"I am a diver and the possibility of terrific diving lies at the doorstep, but, that's me, I hardly ever dive! No excuses, but every-day living keeps me busy with other things. Ha Ha! I feel almost embarrassed – almost. But I do hop in and go swimming or I go sailing or I walk. I also tried out free diving with Karol Meyer and I find it a great sport, but my ear was a little tricky with the decompression. However, I keep on practicing and I hope one day I will transform into Ariel. Also, recently I joined these beach patrols, looking for turtle activity and turtle nests. It's organized by the Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire and I participate in beach clean-ups as well. I work a lot in the garden, but

it's pretty tiring and it made me realize what it is for people who are doing hard physical labor outside in the sun. I admire them. What a tough job that is in this climate!

Sometimes I long for more moderate weather as it can be hot nowadays, but when I go to Europe I feel chilly all the time because I've become really spoiled. I am such a sissy! Bonaire is a great place to be connected to and for the time being I am very happy – no need to move. However, I do see a lot of people moving out and it makes me sad, but maybe one day we will do the same. It's not about leaving Bonaire because of Bonaire. It will be curiosity that will lead us again to another place. It's a big world. But, I feel sorry for the island if everybody is just passing by. Somehow it doesn't seem fair.

While I am here I find it important to contribute and support the island and its people. I learned a big lesson coming here. I learned to let go of my life and start all over and I learned to say goodbye. So life is a constant change and here it's practiced and I find it a big gain in my personal experience.

For living in this little paradise," she laughs, "I had to give up my traveling. Because now is the time to work. Sometimes we travel for business, but traveling to see new places—there is hardly any



Marlene, Idefix and Meike, Jan and Gina. Lily went for stroll

opportunity for that as when I go on vacation I go to see my family and friends.

Home is now Bonaire and I live a more basic life; it's far less materialistic. And the overflow of information and artificial stuff which triggers all your senses and turns you into a consumer – I'm not confronted by it here. Thanks to Bonaire I am allowed just to be me and to make my own choices and to feel relatively free. If you want it, you can find it, but you can also choose to stay away from it and be happy with what you have.

I believe this island is a treasure but I am a little concerned because with the

breaking of the roads and cleaning big lots of land the island looks raped. I am concerned about violence and actual changes and plans and the degree of happiness of those who have no choice and have to cope and deal with it. I just hope that competent people who love the island and who have the vision and the capacity will be involved in leading Bonaire to a new destination, because this could be the best place in the world."

■ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra






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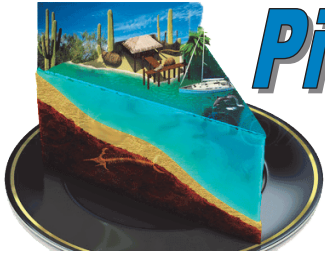
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Piece of Paradise

A column to answer your Bonaire real estate related questions. Please email your questions to reporter@bonairenews.com

PURCHASING BONAIRE REAL ESTATE

Bonaire is a legal entity (*bijzonder openbaar lichaam*) within the Netherlands, and for Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius (BES islands) a number of different laws have been written, approved or currently under review. Therefore the laws applicable here are based on the legal system of the Netherlands, but they are not completely similar for the purchasing process of a property. Since most of the buyers of real estate on Bonaire are not too familiar with this legal system we believe it is useful to inform you of the whole purchasing process.

Obviously, before you can buy a property you need to find your own piece of paradise. Once you have identified the property that you would like to buy, the purchasing process begins.

All listings have a **price**. When the price is fixed there is no negotiation possible on the price. In those cases you may be able to negotiate for when the date of transfer will take place and any other details you would like to be included. When the price is marked as an asking price, it means that you are invited to make an offer on the property, however, the seller is not obligated to accept your offer, even when you offer the asking price.

An **offer** usually contains the following items: the price, the date on which you would like to take possession of the property, a specification of what is included (inventory wise), the currency in which you would like to pay and any contingencies that you would like to include, such as financing and results of a technical inspection.

A **contingency for financing** will have to include a definite maximum amount that you would need to borrow and any other conditions that are important to you. These parameters need to be included so that you can prove beyond doubt (should that be the case) that you were unable to obtain the financing so that you have the right to receive your deposit back on the property. The proof will have to be written and signed by a known financial institution, stating that they were unable to provide you with the financing for this amount under these conditions.

A **contingency for the results of a technical inspection** will also need to be defined precisely. This should be in terms of only when major structural problems be found by the inspector will you have the right to dissolve the agreement without a penalty.

Under the law of the BES islands this whole process can take place verbally:



Sunbelt Realty Office


nothing has to be in writing. Once the seller has accepted your offer, or you have accepted the seller's offer, there is a deal that is binding for both parties.

Your real estate agent will then draw up the **purchase agreement**, which will reflect the price and other details and contingencies that were agreed upon. Furthermore the rights and obligations of both buyer and seller will be laid down in this agreement. This document will be signed by both seller and buyer and the buyer will need to wire a down payment of 15% within 10 to 14 days of signing this agreement to the escrow account of the notary (notaris) here on Bonaire.

The **notaris** will then prepare everything for the actual transfer of ownership. All outstanding government fees and taxes for the property will be gathered and the notaris will perform a title search to make sure there are no liens on the property. You will receive notification from the notaris of how much exactly you will need to pay before the date of transfer. On the date of transfer you will be invited to the notaris'

office to sign the official date. If you are unable to be present yourself, you can sign a power of attorney for the notaris or one of his coworkers. ■ *Corine van der Hout*
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--Greta
July 3rd

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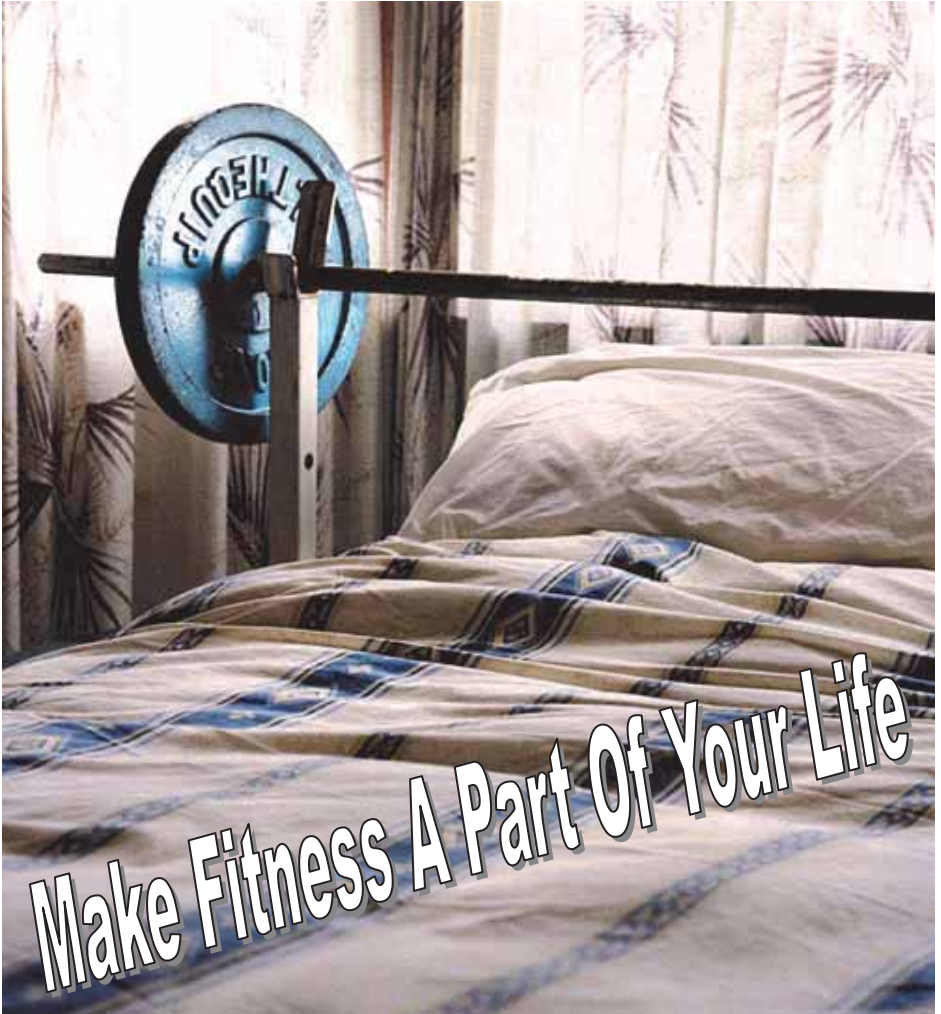
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8th Annual Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival

Coming in July



Get ready for the 8th Annual Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival – coming Friday, Saturday, Sunday, July 27, 28 and 29. This jazz festival draws music lovers from all over the world, but it's not a massive crowd-crushing, loud, commercial event like others. It's more fun, personal and the setting by the seaside is incredibly tranquil. The event, normally held in May-June, was changed to the end of July. It's low season and prices are cheaper in the hotels (Plaza Hotel Manager Frank Dubbleman said Plaza would be offering rooms for \$100 per night for the festival) so more visitors and local music lovers can enjoy it. Also this year a broader variety of music will be offered to appeal to a wider audience: jazz, bachata, creole.

The MC of the event is the vivacious and talented Maritza Haakmat.

The festival opens on Friday night, under the stars, at historic Ft. Oranje on the waterfront. It's a **Jazz and Poetry night** with participants from all the ABC islands: Gabriel Mercera Trio (Bonaire), Hershel Rosario Trio and Irma Philbert (Curacao) and Frankie Yanga Trio (Aruba). "For the opening night we decided to ask these dedicated artists who have been playing on the ABC islands for a long time," says Robbie Swinkels.

The **main concert on Saturday** will have diverse artists: Rina Mushonga and her Band from Zimbabwe, Dutch saxophone player, Candy Dulfer, and Bachata King, Yoska "El Prabu" Sarante from the Dominican Republic.

On Sunday at 2 pm on the "lawn" at Divi you can enjoy a **Jam Fest** and if you are so inclined, you may play along with the other musicians, including talented youngsters. More information, including images and bios of the performing artists, are available on the Website: WWW.BonaireJazz.com. Tickets are now available on the website. Opening ceremony and Jazz and Poetry evening at Ft. Oranje is \$15; Saturday night's big program is \$50; Sunday afternoon's Jam Fest is free.

Please keep in mind that this is a non-profit event. Getting good performers is expensive, and only a small amount comes from ticket sales. It is the sponsors who carry the bulk of the costs.

One of the Stars of the Saturday Night Big Program: CANDY DULFER

Saxophonist Candy Dulfer (born 19 September 1969) is a Dutch smooth jazz alto saxophonist who has been performing since age seven, bandleader of Funky Stuff since age 14, international recording artist since age 19, touring the world since age 20. Her debut album, *Saxuality*, (1990), received a Grammy Award nomination. Dulfer has released nine studio albums, two live albums, and one compilation album. Candy has recorded and/or performed with artists like Prince, Dave Stewart (Eurythmics), Van Morrison, Maceo Parker, Sheila E., Mavis Staples, Lionel Richie, Beyoncé, Pink Floyd, Chaka Khan, David Sanborn, Larry Graham, Marcus Miller, Aretha Franklin, Jimmy Cliff, George Duke, Blondie, Jools Holland, Jamie Cullum, Angie Stone, Tower of Power, The Time, Alan Parsons, Fred Wesley, Pee Wee Ellis, Joey DiFrancesco, Jonathan Butler, and many others. ■ *Press release*

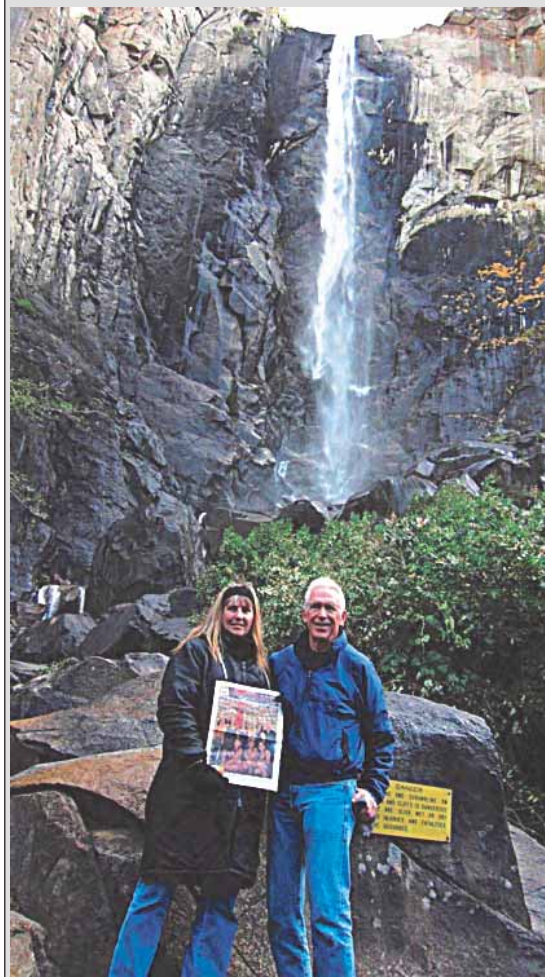


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Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Yosemite



Here is a photo of John and Cindi Jensen in Yosemite National Park, CA, USA with a copy of *The Reporter*. "We are standing in front of the famous Bridal Veil Falls with the wispy veil of the water flowing down in a slight breeze. Clearly it is colder than what we are used to on Bonaire! We are residents of Bonaire for five years and were traveling and visiting family members in California. There are more than 4 million visitors to Yosemite National Park each year. In the fall it is not so crowded and the park is full of fall colors." ■

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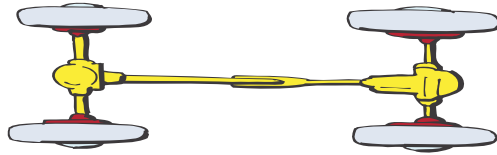


Marijn te Kolsté (in photo above) transformed an abandoned old Bonairean house into a wishing shelter recently. Stringing hundreds of salt crystals from the ceiling a three dimensional matrix surrounding the occupant creates an ethereal atmosphere. Imagination may run wild.

During the dedication of the artistic work Yvon Pelasula provided a poetic narration. Then visitors were invited to pass through the matrix occupied by two ethereal sisters and make a wish. The exhibition, opposite Kaya Papa Cornes number 13, will remain until the crystals of salt evaporate naturally. ■ *L.D.*

BONAIRE ON WHEELS

This is the 106th of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n –wear a helmet- Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles and persons that are "on wheels." Up to at least 200 articles!



VENTO REBELLIAN 150

Bonaire/Antriol –

Gilbert Martis is the proud owner of a two-tone, sprayed **Vento Rebellian 150**. On a regular basis one can see and hear the single-cylinder motorcycle riding from Antriol to Sabadeco and back as Gilbert was working on a big outside paint job. In fact Gilbert is a carpenter, but as a painter he also does a great job. First he cleans or removes the old paint, then he starts painting: two layers, sometimes even three. It takes some time and a lot of paint but the result is there. Gilbert and his colleagues are proud Bonaireans. They just like their job and never paint over dust, dirt, sand and soil.

Gilbert loves his motorcycle. It is in good condition and is a reliable and cheap runner. As it is a single-cylinder with just two valves and one carburetor it is easy to maintain too. Gilbert is the second owner. When he bought the Vento Rebellian it was only about one year old and it looked like new. Since then it has served Gilbert for some five years now and never have serious problems popped up. Gilbert knows there are three more 150 cc single cylinder Rebellians on the island of Bonaire. They all look more or less the same. His bike is a two tone, partly metallic blue, partly metallic silver, with loads and loads of chrome parts. The machine is very complete: a speedometer, a rev counter, a fuel gauge on top of the tank, two mirrors, a kick start and electric start, one exhaust pipe connected to two mufflers. During the last couple of years most of the metal from the inside of the exhaust system was blown out so the sound is deep, healthy and solid. "Loud pipes save lives!" This bike has the looks of a well known Milwaukee-made motorcycle: a huge chrome headlamp, two chrome side lamps, chrome mirrors, chrome tank cover with ignition key and fuel gauge, chrome bars, chrome all over the place. Fat rubbers around alloy rims. In the front: 110/90/16, in the rear: 130/90/15. Drum brakes.

Then Gilbert temporarily stops his painting job. He cleans his hands on his shirt and he grabs the keys out of his pocket. He takes a position on his motorcycle, ready to launch it. He turns the ignition key and starts the engine.



Gilbert Martis and his Vento Rebellian 150

He revs it a little. A big *sonrisa* (smile) appears on his face because of the fat sound escaping from the exhaust system. Yes, Gilbert really likes his machine! I take some pictures of Gilbert on his bike. Then he gets further with the job. A wet brush cannot wait too long in the heat of the tropics.

Vento Motorcycles Inc. is a Chinese company. They started the production of motorcycles way back in 1996. Gilbert's Vento is based on the reliable Honda 150 cc one-cylinder, four-stroke engine. The manufacturer's label says the bike was produced in June 2005. If you Google the internet you get a lot of information about this company. They also produce the Vento V-Thunder 250 cc twin. YouTube has little movies about proud Vento owners in Indonesia. And they like their loud pipes too!

Have fun, Gilbert! And please be careful. Beware of the donkeys with two and four legs. ■ *Story & photo by Jan Brouwer*



The Helmet Of Happiness



A picture of a bunch of Jong Bonaireans and Ilona Burgers, general manager.

NEW SKATE BOARD BOWL AND WAKE BOARD HELMETS

This is the fourth of a series of Bonaire Reporter short articles by J@n Brouwer, about helmets and helmet awareness.

Bonaire/Hato –

In this week's *Bonaire Reporter* edition two topics about helmets. First: the "swimming pool" of Jong Bonaire. Second: TSG wake board helmets!

First: the "swimming pool." So people told me Jong Bonaire, located at Kaya Simon Bolivar 16, Playa, had converted their swimming pool into a half pipe for skate boarding. I went to the place and had a talk with Ilona Burgers, the general manager. It appeared that there had never been a swimming pool but that on the terrain of Jong Bonaire a concrete "bowl" was created, a kind of half pipe with extras, more or less in the shape of a swimming pool. At the end of this July the skate board location will be officially opened and a skate camp organized. The good news is that Jong Bonaire ordered a huge bunch of skate helmets and knee and elbow protectors. Congratulations! The more helmets we get on our beautiful island the more lives we can save.

Second: TSG wake board helmets. Then Franklin "Paco" Veeris joined the meeting. He is also involved in the skate board project and the skate board camp. Apart from that he is into

wake boarding. Wake boarding appears to be standing on a board, being towed by a fast boat. (Never too old to learn./jb) Wake boarding is another project of Jong Bonaire. Then we went to Paco's office where he showed me some wake boards and helmets. Cool helmets! I immediately fell in love with the white wake board helmets. These TSG Technical Safety Helmets are produced by Rider. The white outside shell is made of ABS, the inner shell is made of eps-impact-foam. The helmets have very cool looks. Fourteen ventilation holes and ear pads to protect your ears when you hit the water surface. The helmet has no cloth layer inside. This wake board and kite helmet is washable. Great! So I immediately gave Paco my flat black ski helmet and I left with the TSG wake board helmet for a severe test on the motorcycle. Nice looks, snug fit. The first white helmet in my life. Sturdy but comfortable fit. 497 grams. No cloth inside, washable. Fits good, feels good. Fully adjustable. (I am wearing this helmet while I am writing this article and I do not feel any irritation or disturbing weight.) To be honest this helmet is even more comfortable than my new ski helmet as I am not getting heated up at all. Soon I am going to ride to the kite surf place near Fisherman's Hut to see what the kite surfers do with their brains. ■

Story & Photos by J@n Brouwer

Hooked Again On Fishing Line

Bonaire/Playa –

On Sunday June 10 the Fishing Line Project, organized by the STCB (Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire), in partnership with DCNA (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance), arranged another recovery dive to collect as much fishing line as possible. This time the town pier was the target.

The captains' meeting at Yellow Submarine, Playa



A bunch of experienced divers, spending some hours of their spare time to free the sea from fishing line. It is really astonishing how huge this underwater spider web of fishing line is.

Lechi, 10 o'clock on a Sunday morning. Most tourists are gone, no cruise ships, the true tranquility of the Bonairean island. Some 15 volunteers. Easy access at the slope near the former fish market and near the customs building. For most divers a 75-minute dive. A good experience for divers. Most of the time you are hanging more or less upside down to collect the lead, the hooks and the line. The more experience you have, the fewer problems you have with controlling your buoyancy. All the time you have to stay alert. Where is my buddy? Are we close enough? All the time you have to decide: Is this line "fresh" enough or did the algae and the coral of the underwater world finally, after years and years, take over? The re-

sult? Several tens of kilograms of fishing line. After the dive we were tired but satisfied. The organization offered us drinks and little snacks at the Dive Inn. Thank you, Dive Friends of Bonaire, for your hospitality!

Be responsible and take care of the future and the future of our kids and visit the website: bonaireturtles.org. Get informed by Sue Willis from the STCB about the Fishing Line Project. Gloves and knives are forbidden in the underwater world around Bonaire, but a pair of pliers or ordinary scissors to cut the fishing lines are very efficient! Let's add a pair of pliers or scissors to our equipment! ■ *Story & photo by Jan Brouwer*



As you all may know, Bonaire has a new governor and to some she still remains a mystery. So why don't I release you from your suspense and write about Governor Mrs Lydia Emerencia. Governor Emerencia is a very busy lady but she took time and answered all my questions willingly.

My first question was who is she and where she comes from, of course! Mrs. Emerencia answered: "I am the person that I am today thanks to all the experiences I've had, both personally and professionally."

She made it clear that coming from a big family consisting of 14 brothers and sisters including herself (she has a twin sister), family is very important to her and she holds the family concept close to her heart.

Lydia's father is a Bonairean while her mother is an Aruban lady. Her dad was a military officer and he taught all his kids a very important lesson in life: When you start something you have to finish it, no matter what! Later on, Lydia found out that in life it is not always possible but she always tries. Mrs. Emerencia elaborated: "If you want something, work hard for it: no pain no gain. Nothing comes falling down from the sky. Perseverance is good and try not to give up or never give up."

Even though her family members were numerous, her parents made sure that all their children got a chance to fulfill an academic study. Besides education, Lydia and her siblings were brought up with many good qualities like the essence of communication, languages, culture, literature and music. No matter how much new information and culture they learned about, the most important one was their own: Bonairean, Aruban, Antillean. And the first language they would have to master was of course their native Papiamentu.

Mrs. Emerencia lived eight years in the Netherlands during her university years. That period was one of self-discovery. Questions such as, Who am I? What am I doing here? Where am I going?

By the time she successfully completed her academic degrees, specializing in education, she knew exactly who she was and what she wanted in life on all levels.

When Lydia left Aruba to study abroad she never changed her mind about going back to Aruba or to one of the other islands like Curacao or Bonaire where they speak Papiamentu. Her intention was to collaborate wherever and whenever she could with the development, evolution and progress of those islands.

Mrs. Emerencia has worked in many institutions and universities in Aruba since she moved back "home."

Subsequent to the sabbatical year she



Bonaire Governor Lydia Emerencia.

took, Bonaire was looking for a new governor, so she applied out of love for her father's island. And guess what? She got the job. Yay! Her main professional reason for wanting this job was the significance of connecting with people, showing real interest in them and actually caring for them as well. This year, 2012, in the early spring, Mrs. Lydia Emerencia officially became the Governor of Bonaire.

After I'd asked her about the most important aspect of her job, Emerencia answered. "I consider the most important aspect is the possibility of helping to strengthen the foundations for the society, to further develop it into a dynamic society with a well-being for all. I believe that those foundations are grounded in respectful and kind human relations in which solidarity is considered as an important value." She continued, "What's also important is the vision and the capacity to identify one's own aspirations and goals and have a sense of determination to fulfill them. Crucial factors therefore are self-organization, self-esteem and self-confidence. These combined together gives one the strength to believe that one can do it. So do it!"

Lydia has been Governor of Bonaire officially since March 2012. I asked her what she considers to be her biggest challenge in her line of work. Lydia replied, "My biggest challenge would be to facilitate open dialogue between opposing parties and strengthen unity and respect for diverse opinions, especially political opinions."

For those who do not live on Bonaire, allow me to fill you in. Previous to Mrs Emerencia, Bonaire had another Governor by the name of Glenn Thodé. He served less than two years and resigned due to the lack of professionalism, the petty infighting, the integrity and the general dysfunction of the Island Council. Well, that is what people on Bonaire have been saying. So, I asked Mrs Emerencia about this matter and also her opinion.

She answered, "My decision to take this job while being aware of the disillusion of the former Island Governor has been a very conscious one. I believe that Bonaire has a lot of opportunities and great things going on, which deserve support and ap-

preciation. A key factor in my decision making has been my father's love for his island and his deep concern for its future. I believe and see that there are good and interesting people living on Bonaire, who love and truly care for this island. You will see that Bonaire is more than just politics and politicians." She paused and then resumed. "However, I do agree that Bonaire has a formidable challenge to demand from its political leaders' transparent policy, together with wise, responsible and democratic decision making. Nevertheless, I am optimistic and believe that Bonaire has reached a point of no return.

There is a growing awareness of the principles of good governance. There are increasingly more social institutions and individuals willing and able to fearlessly speak up against signals or evidence of bad governing practices.

The general level of education is increasing and Bonaire is creating its own local leaders with the capacity to analyze and understand the development of the island and to formulate alternative directions.


There are more solid structures for government actions and there are more and potentially better legislative structures as Bonaire grows stronger and thus becomes more aware of the mechanisms and dynamics of its development. This implies a more critical evaluation of its leaders and options for development, thus a better Bonaire is inevitable.

It is a matter of time, caring, hardwork-

ing and visionary citizens, with their willingness to lead by setting a good example and most important of all by **not** giving up!"




It was a tremendous opportunity and great pleasure for me to meet our Governor face to face and interact with her. I am so impressed. She is a nice lady and extremely intelligent. I am positive that Bonaire will undergo many good changes during her governance. I cannot wait to see the results of her projects. As for all of us out there, please take into consideration her wise advice. So folks, try **not** to give up on your goal whether it is personal or professional because, believe me, you will feel so much better once you have achieved it. I, personally, have been in situations throughout my life where I wanted to give up. Well, sometimes I didn't give up but on rare occasions I did because I cherished my other values more than just focusing on one single goal. Besides, life teaches you and shows you in a funny way that there are many roads that could lead you to Rome, as long you as you do not lose the urge to want to arrive there. Moreover a nice Buddha saying states that it is not the destiny that matters sometimes but it is the journey you took to get there that makes a difference.....What do you think? ■
Story & Photo by
Rose Feng






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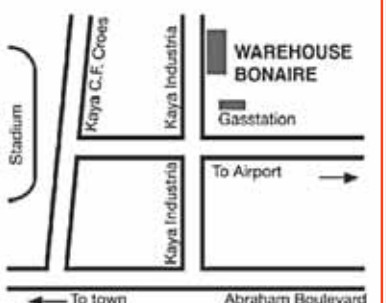
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THE TUNG FONG STORE - A Bonaire Institution

It was a pleasure to meet the entire management of Tung Fong Store N.V. in their office above the store everyone on Bonaire calls "The Chinese."

Their story started in 1982 when a Chinese couple, Lo Kei and Amy Yan, decided to open a small store called the "Eastern Store" on Kaya Korona (These days there is a supermarket there). Eastern Store was a small warehouse selling a bit of everything from cosmetics to bicycles and household items. In March 1990 the store moved to a new location which is now where Tung Fong Store is: Kaya Korona #52.

The family changed the name from Eastern Store to Tung Fong Store in the year 2000 to establish the new generation. Amy and Lo Kei's children joined the management team two years later in 2002. So since 2002, the management of the family business is Amy, Lo Kei, Eliza and Thing Chung Yan.

As the years passed, the Yan family expanded the building and enlarged their product line. They created new departments inside the store, offering a larger choice of the products they sell.

The unofficial baptized name by the locals is "The Chinese." This was because back in the late 70s when Amy and Lo Kei arrived in Bonaire there was not a single department store owned by Chinese people. They saw an opportunity and took it with both hands by establishing the Eastern Store. Since it was the first Chinese owned store ever in Bonairean history, when people said, and still say, they go to the Chinese, it meant only one place: the Eastern

Store, renamed the Tung Fong Store.

In answer to my question as to why they are still in business and how they deal with the current close competition in the Bonairean market, they replied, "We are grateful to be able to rely on our regular customers who have been with us from the start. Most of our clients are local people or residents of Bonaire." Eliza continued, "Even though the cost of living has become extremely expensive, we try to keep our prices as low as possible because we understand what the locals are going through." Amy added, "We try to keep our clientele satisfied and have been doing so for the past 30 years. We do our best to serve the Bonairean community with our friendly and committed staff!"

Eliza concluded, "We, the management together with our loyal staff, do our utmost best every day to meet the demands of the Bonairean people by providing them a store with one of the most, if not the most, extensive offering of products from our many departments."

So, from a pair shoes that you might need to party decorations, there is an answer to your prayers: Tung Fong Store N.V. Open daily, except on Sundays from 8:30 am till 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm till 6:30 pm.

For those who need school supplies such as pens, pencils, markers, (school) agendas, notebooks and organizers, don't miss Tung Fong Store N.V.'s yearly **Back to School products and specials**. Remember, you look for it, and Tung Fong Store N.V. might have it, so go there and get it! ■ *Story & photos by Rose Feng*



Tung Fong staff: Zus, Magriet, Olga, Marcia and Chinta



Tung Fong management: Amy, Eliza, Thing Chung. In front: Lo Kei.



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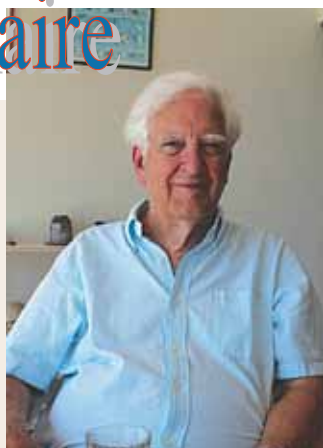
“I’ve been coming here with Martha, my wife, for 35 years. First we discovered the coral reef; it was colorful and silent, a different world to see and enjoy. Then we became acquainted with the people. To me, the essence of a culture is the language and it seemed like all the people here had this treasure of being able to speak four languages. That’s the surest base of the future of a society. To develop further you need the books and the computers to give access to everything that has been written. Therefore, after having accumulated during my lifetime around 6,000 volumes, mostly in English, but also in Spanish and French, I thought: no reason to keep it for myself or my children who cannot accommodate such an amount of books. My first idea was to find a proper institution in Venezuela, but I’ve seen the results of other people doing so and it didn’t work out. Then I started to toy with the idea of donating my library and my personal files to Bonaire, and they could see it as the first brick of a much more ambitious program. I think Bonaire would be an ideal location – isolated, perfect climate and no other distractions – for people who want to follow merchant courses in Spanish like the Cervantes Institute which has 54 centers in 20 different countries which are devoted to the Spanish and Hispanic American culture and Spanish language. In this case, I would like Bonaire to consider the possibility of installing a multi-cultural, multilingual center on the island, and I hope that my donation may be the impetus to establish such a foundation.”

Speaking is Francisco Kerdel Vegas, born in Venezuela in 1928, a prominent and exceptional man. To mention all his achievements would be an impossible task, but amongst other things he’s an internationally known professor of dermatology, whose work and research has been awarded numerous times, nationally and internationally. He

has authored a great number of text books and articles in the fields of tropical and dermatological diseases. Also he has been the ambassador of Venezuela to Great Britain and France and for Unesco, and he was one of the members and founders of an international dermatological training center in Moshi, Tanzania. He was the creator of the “virtual parents,” a foundation of virtual colleges in Venezuela. He’s a member of WWF and the founder and first president of the Foundation to Protect Nature in Venezuela.

“The reason why I want to donate my books to Bonaire can be explained through a speech Federico Garcia Lorca – the greatest poet Spain has produced – made at the inauguration of the first people’s library in the whole province of Granada, Spain. Garcia Lorca said: ‘A man doesn’t live from bread only. If I were hungry and helpless in the street, I wouldn’t ask for bread but for half a loaf of bread and a book...’ The first steps are always very problematic, but to me, persistence is the key word. My sole concern is that the government or a private institution provide a location where the books can be kept as a unit. If people are aware that this opportunity is available and they put on some pressure, a location will be found. Now that Bonaire is part of the Netherlands they could probably view this initiative favorably.”

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra



Francisco Kerdel Vegas



Members signing the privacy agreement representing their departments and foundations: Onnie Emerenciana, James Kroon, Giovanni Frans (hidden), Marcelino Mauricio, Leo Tigges, Inge Berben, Barelds Roos (probation CN), Jan Rooijakker, Justine Beumer-Gonggrijp, Justine Verschoor, Esther Pourier, Diana Copini-Rigaud, Riet Sealy, Gertie Verkouter

Representatives from government and organizations subsidized by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport signed an agreement to legalize exchanging private information to harmonize the care, help and support of their clients.

Signing were:

The Dutch Caribbean Youth Care and Family Court of Guardianship, the Bonaire Center for Youth & Family, the Bonaire Foundation Expertise Centre Education Care, the Compulsory Education Officer, the BES Court of Guardianship, the Dutch Caribbean Rehabilitation Foundation, the Dutch Caribbean Police Force (including the Bureau for Aid to Victims), the BES Public

Prosecutor’s Office, the Dutch Caribbean Penitentiary Institution, FORMA Foundation, medical specialists and medical doctors of Fundashon Mariadal, the FACT team Foundation for addictions and psychiatry and Krusada Foundation.

During the meeting Commissioner James Kroon, substituting for Commissioner Sylvana Serfilia, expressed his appreciation for the joint effort which has been demonstrated. He sees this agreement as the crowning of the cooperation between the organizations. All parties signed the agreement on the spot under the watchful eye of Leo Tigges, liaison for the Ministry of Security and Justice with the Dutch Caribbean. ■

Press release



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Tropical Rancho is where you go if you want to dance to Latin rhythms in a friendly, safe atmosphere. It's open late and in town

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 ScubaVision on YouTube

RADIO STATION

Mega FM—Radio entertainment all day 101.1, "Feel The Music"
Sponsors of the Bonaire Jazz Festival

REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS

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

Bistro de Paris— is back at a new location at the H.V. Marina. Superb menu, genuine French dishes in a waterfront ambiance.

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

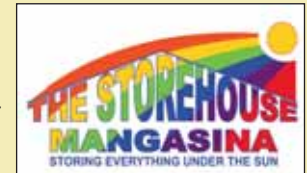
Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

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.
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SUPERMARKETS

Carniceria Latino— Best BBQ on Bonaire every Saturday. Plus an exceptionally well-stocked supermarket featuring local meats and fish

TOP Supermarket—

Conveniently located downtown at the old Cultimara location. Featuring a complete selection including fresh meat, fruit and vegetables.



Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria—

Big air conditioned market with a friendly staff, the largest selection and lowest prices on the island. They stock what you need.



MADE ON BONAIRE

Semper Kontentu goat cheese. Ask for it at restaurants and look in the markets. Lovingly hand-made. Mugs now available.

VARIETY STORE

The Tung Fung Store is a great asset to everyone on Bonaire because it stocks so many things we want: clothes, hardware, food, auto and bike supplies. If you don't see it... ask for it. They probably have it.

WATER TAXI

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RENT Verhuur studio's open house 5-7, Kaya Urecht 25 op Hato. Voor 1-2 personen. Van \$420-570. All in +use. www.bonaireverhuur.com

Spacious 2-BR apartment in quiet location at Punt Vierkant in Belnem. Fully furnished, living + dining area and full kitchen. Tropical garden. Long term \$800.00 per month. Including Cable TV + WIFI internet. Excluding housekeeping + utilities. Available per July 1, 2012. Call 796-5530.

Buy or sell something with an ad here Free!

MISCELLANEOUS
GET INTO REAL SAILING

19 foot sailing sloop -Micro 5.5 includes -New Mainsail and Genoa 2008, Mercury 6 HP outboard -Crossed the Atlantic with a single-handeder. Asking \$6500. Contact email ianinbc@shaw.ca Pictures in February issues of *the Bonaire Reporter*

Hayward pool pump. 1.5 HP. 110/220 volt 50 hz. In very good condition \$150 Call 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm

SALE / TA BENDE 10 x duiktank te koop \$65-80, alleen grote flessen. regulator \$225, fins \$25, pockets. water jugs 2/4/8 liter. Books \$2,- **Kaya Utrecht 25, Hato. from 5-7.** Naam vorige eigenaar bekend, verhuisd.

Wie kan me leren de **sterrenhemel / horoscopen** te zoeken? Ruilen tegen een duik, tuintekening of etentje? 796 2529.
(Who can teach me the **sky / horoscopes to find?** Exchange for a swim, garden design or meal? 796 2529)

I am a **responsible woman looking for a job.** Please, no cleaning job. I am looking for a 5 hour a day job. Mon-Fri, paying \$10 or more an hour. Call my cellular: 700-1909

Watch It!

Bon TOURIST TV

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
June							
Fri 22	02:03 0.82 ft	11:30 -0.22 ft			Longest Day ⇄	6:12	19:02
Sat 23	02:46 0.76 ft	11:46 -0.21 ft	18:41 0.34 ft	21:38 0.33 ft		6:12	19:03
Sun 24	03:30 0.67 ft	12:02 -0.20 ft	18:29 0.46 ft	23:38 0.31 ft		6:13	19:03
Mon 25	04:19 0.57 ft	12:18 -0.19 ft	18:45 0.60 ft			6:13	19:03
Tue 26	First Quarter	01:09 0.24 ft	05:11 0.46 ft	12:39 -0.20 ft	19:12 0.75 ft	6:13	19:03
Wed 27		02:26 0.15 ft	06:06 0.35 ft	13:04 -0.20 ft	19:46 0.90 ft	6:13	19:03
Thu 28		03:35 0.05 ft	07:06 0.24 ft	13:33 -0.20 ft	20:25 1.03 ft	6:14	19:04
Fri 29		04:39 -0.04 ft	08:10 0.15 ft	14:07 -0.19 ft	21:09 1.12 ft	6:14	19:04
Sat 30		05:41 -0.13 ft	09:20 0.08 ft	14:45 -0.17 ft	21:56 1.18 ft	6:14	19:04
July		06:41 -0.20 ft	10:37 0.04 ft	15:27 -0.13 ft	22:46 1.20 ft	6:14	19:04
Sun 01		07:38 -0.25 ft	12:01 0.04 ft	16:16 -0.07 ft	23:38 1.17 ft	6:15	19:04
Mon 02		08:32 -0.28 ft	13:30 0.08 ft	17:14 0.02 ft		6:15	19:04
Tue 03	Full Moon	09:22 -0.30 ft	14:52 0.16 ft	18:30 0.11 ft		6:15	19:04
Wed 04		10:09 -0.30 ft	15:59 0.27 ft	20:04 0.19 ft		6:16	19:04
Thu 05		10:50 -0.29 ft	16:52 0.40 ft	21:45 0.23 ft		6:16	19:04
Fri 06						6:16	19:04

Wanted used items: Books, household items, shoes, clothes & books for dare to Care One Dollar Shop at Bonaire's only playground - To donate pls. call Vicky - 786-4576

Ocean-going sailboat/yacht for sale- \$15,900 . Phone 786 5002 or 701 2504 See ad in last Reporter

5 gallon metal jerry cans \$10 each. Armoire, with beveled glass mirror \$250. 717-6847

Hyundai Tucson SUV, automaat Type: 2.0 lt, 4 cilinder Bouwjaar 2006 Benzine motor US\$9,000,- Tel: 785-9453

MISSING DOG



A Pug (Pekipoe) named Mona. Blond, dark face. Has disappeared from the garden in Nikiboko North on May 20st, 2012.

If you have any information please call: Andres at 786-0016. Mona needs her medicine! Thank you!

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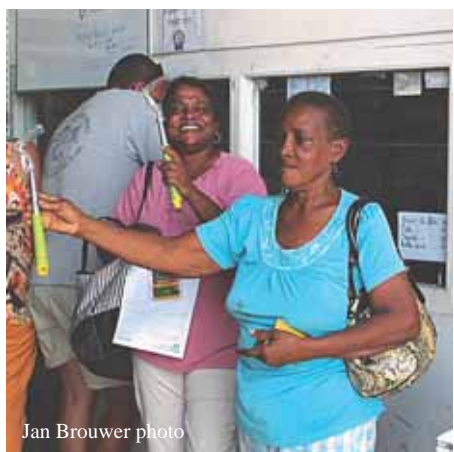
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Jan Brouwer photo

Seeds and such for sale inside

Bonaire/Nikiboko North – On Saturday June 2 at Kriabon a *Marshe di Kunukeru* (Farmers' Market) was held from 8am-1pm. Kriabon is located on Kaya Nikiboko Nort, next to the Aquamarin School, just there where the tarmac stops, in the direction of the far outback of Yatu Baku. Farm fresh produce, plants, preserves, jams, local food and drinks were available at very reasonable prices. Delicious tasting coconuts were even for free! Quality garden tools were for sale for only a few dollars. **The Farmers Market is held every 1st Saturday of the month.** Kriabon is open Mon.-Fri., 2-6pm, Sat., 8am-noon. Good deals! ■ *Jan Brouwer*

BonPhoto for The Animal Shelter

Bonaire/Kralendijk – On Saturday June 2 a photo shoot was organized by **Leo Hoogenboom, Bruce Schnaak and Zsuzsanna Pusztai** from BonPhoto. At Pakus di Pruga, located at Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, during the weekly Bonaire Animal Shelter flea market they raised funds for the Shelter. From early in the morning until five in the afternoon they took photos of pets and their owners.

From all over the island people came to visit the photo shoot and check out the shop for interesting stuff, books and bargains. At the end of the day **Leo Hoogenboom** handed over all the proceeds to **Marlies Tiepel**, Shelter manager, to support her efforts in giving a better life to Bonairean animals. (See photo) BonPhoto is a new and brisk enterprise located just north of Captain Don's Habitat on Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot, in the direction of Hato. Thumbs up for a better world above and below sea level. ■ *Jan Brouwer*



Something New To Do

Among the best Bonaire products are the goat milk items offered by Aletta van Beek at her *Tras di Montagne kunuku* (farm).

In addition to the different varieties of goat cheese she has added some new products: fresh bottled goat milk and yoghurt made from the milk.

You can get two cheeses (fresh and aged), a bottle of milk, a container of yoghurt, tea herbs and a jar of *Plantage Mi Ramada* chutney for only \$20 at the farm.

Also available are "Semper Kontentu" quality mugs, complete with spoon and spoon holder made by Sinoware. It is the first of a possible series of collectable chinaware for only \$12. See the photo below.

If you have a garden, sacks of goat compost are also available.

On the second Saturday of every month, from 8 am to noon, there is an "open house" at the kunuku. It makes for a great family excursion or tourist experience. ■ *G.D.*



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BONAIREAN VOICES

EDUCATE AND EDUCATE

Education in various ways is crucial for people's progress and success. Having been well educated, many men and women in our Bonairean community occupy high positions. In these positions they bring Bonaire to a level to connect with the rest of the world via communication which is very important. We educate through communication, but we have to watch out what kind of information we are bringing forth. Information is to mold people, to make it touch their hearts.

Education begins in the early years and is obligatory for children between four and 18 years. Because many parents today are working they have to send their kids between 0 to four years to **pre-school**. No matter what, the parents' duties are to inform themselves about the pre-school situation in the area they are living before sending their children there. They should talk with the director and look around the area where the pre-school is situated. Remember that pre-schools must give accommodation, caring attention and prepare the child for the basic schools (Basic schools are now known as practical schools, divided into different levels in the fields of technology, science and communication.) and from there to advanced schools. To go through all these steps of education the child needs proper guidance.

The Department of Education and Culture at Kaya L.D. Gerharts 6 provides in-

formation folders for pre-school to higher education for parents and teachers.

But what about our children who enter higher education when they come from different levels of education in their pre-school and basic schools? They are usually placed at the same level from which they graduated.

The **SBO (Secundaire Beroep Onderwijs, Secondary Vocational Education)** is a new educational innovation which has been successful in the last several years. There have been fewer dropouts with most of the students staying in school. The students get more attention at their own level, help in setting goals and what they want to achieve in the future.

Before SBO there was no place to put these kids and there were many dropouts. But today there are different areas of education to serve the needs of these students. **FORMA** and the **Stichting Project** are functioning as vocational schools to prepare these students for the economic situation, to fit in the working class. They need special care and guidance to minimize the social economic situation.

Bonaire is developing rapidly and from now through the next five years we need more professionals with different skills in sports, science, etc., and we'd like to have our own Bonaireans to occupy these fields. We need a group of caring people like social workers and psychologists who can work on the prevention part, to help them

from going into criminality. Also the educators, teachers and even parents need professional help to cope with different situation in schools.

Our main goal is for every child to reach advanced school, finish it, get a diploma and get a job.

Another big event here in Bonaire is the new education innovation for all kinds of persons. Whether or not you have a diploma, now is your opportunity to achieve your goals and of course those of your company. The new innovation is the **OICN (Onderwijs Instituut Caribisch Nederland)**, directed by Mr. Gilberto "Juni" Vos, which has been operating on Bonaire for the last year. It gives men, women and companies the chance to reach out for opportunities in life. Anyone who wants to expand his or her education to the next level is an outstanding candidate, those of you with the guts to still want to educate yourself, even after so many years of being out of school. Of course it's not an easy task. You have to deal with your



Some of the OICN students with teacher Esterline Brunken (center)

work, family, children, husband, wife or your social life to get your wishes. But once you reach your goal you will feel very pleased with yourself.

So, as you see, education is very important and when you have an educated community, you will see the positive effects not only in the short term, but also in the long term. Go to the website: OICNBONAIRE.COM to see the different possibilities that this institute offers.

We just want a sound community with every member of that community—for their own sake—in a sound state of mind. ■ Story & photo by Siomara Albertus.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Wednesday, June 20 – Opening SGB Young Talent III Exhibition, 5-8 pm, Kas di Arte. Exhibition open through June 27.

Wings of Support Dinner Concert 23rd of June
Piano: Michiel Borstlap
Vocals: Maruja Bogaard

Tipsy Seagull @ plazaresortbonaire
Gourmet Dinner at its Best
US\$ 95,-p.p. supports Jong Bonaire

Saturday, June 23

-Wings of Support Concert
-Creole Buffet and St. John's Day fire jumping at Posada Para Mira. \$22 p/p- buffet and party. 7-10 pm

Saturday, Sunday, June 23-24—BSSA Sorobon sailing weekend
BSSA members pay \$15 for the entire weekend including food, Non-members \$25. Lunches for \$3 members / \$5 non members and members BBQ \$8/not members \$10. For info call Agnes 717-3720

Sunday, June 24 –St. John's Day

June 28-July 1—International Dance Festival Latin Explosion
Workshop, parties, live music, more. Info: Claudia Critelli 785-0027

Friday, June 29—St. Peter's Day

Saturday, June 30 –Farmers' Market at Pakus di Pruga,
Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café.



Sunday, July 8 – Dia di Arte– Art Day (change from July 1)

July 27, 28, 29– Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival. See page 11
September 1, 2- First International Yoga and Ayurveda Convention on Bonaire. Presented by Vivek Yogi from Rishilesh, India, at Landhouse Wanapa. More details when available.

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 1pm - 7 pm, entrance fee \$1 per child, \$150 per adult. Saturdays open for free. Closed Sundays.

Saturdays

• **We Dare To Care Playground Bazaar,** Flea market tables are \$10 except first Saturday of the month when they are free. Open 9 am - 2 pm. - Call Marissa - 701 1103 Everything for sale, old & new: household items, plants, baby things, clothes & shoes. Food riot, BBQ. All funds go toward maintaining the Park.

• **Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market) 1st Saturday of the month,** at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am to 12 noon.

• **Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market) Last Saturday of the month** at Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter's Garage Sale-see below), 8 am-noon

• **Bonaire Animal Shelter's "Garage Sale" Pakus di Pruga—**every Saturday, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Tel. 717-4989

• **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse** on Kaya Industria, **Second Saturday of the month,** 7-9 pm. (Always call to make sure it's on: Tel. 560-7539.) Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 per person.

• **Soldachi Tours—**See the real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information—796-7870.

• **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 prepared by students, under direction of teachers, \$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

Fridays

• **Happy Hour Crafts Market at Wilhelmina Park,** sponsored by Bonaire Arts and Crafts Association. 5-9 pm.

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)

BOINAIRE'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

• **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 Thursday evening at 7.30pm. Call 700-7751 or 701-8728

• **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 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. 785-0046.

• **Toastmasters Club** meets every two

weeks. For more information call Crisita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

• **Protestant Congregation of Bonaire:** (VPGB), Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday service: 10 am (in Dutch). Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday service: 8:30 am in Papiamentu/Dutch Children's club, every Saturday from 4:30 till 6 pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the church.) Contact:

Marytjin@gmail.com or
Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

• **International Bible Church,** Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debro. Sunday 9 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 Sunday mornings 10am to 11:30am. Bible studies in English 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: Information: Call 701-9522 .

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

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Sailing Full of Expectation to Bonaire

It was in the beginning of 2009 when we, Maarten (39) and Daan (35) from Holland, made a plan to go sailing to see the world. We didn't have a boat, Daan couldn't sail yet, we didn't win the lottery, but... we decided to try to make something what seemed impossible, possible.

The big plan was to sail the world in two years. That's an optimistic plan if you also want to see the countries you pass. We knew that somewhere we would change our plan, maybe three years, maybe we'd change the route. We didn't know at the time. Let's find a seaworthy boat first.

We bought a project-boat in England. There was a lot that needed to be done, so we worked hard on the boat for two years. Every possible day, every free minute we spent on our boat and also every penny. In the meantime we also had to maintain our normal work of course. We both have our own businesses. Before we left Maarten worked most of the time in all Dutch theatres as a technician and stage designer with comedians. Daan was active as a drama teacher, actress and communication trainer; a busy period, working hard for our special goal.

When to leave? When are you really ready? Never. We wanted to leave somewhere in the summer of 2011. In January we picked a date. On the fifth of June 2011 at 12.10 hours we would leave the harbor from Amsterdam. Up until then there was a lot to organize between our working hours. Renting out our house, preparing our clients that we were leaving, arranging the boat papers, finding a home for our dear, nervous, not suitable for a boat cat...and so on and so on...

We made it! On the fifth of June we were very tired, but ready to go! Just a small little thing was against us: the wind. Our whole family stood on the pier to wave us goodbye, but the winds were coming from the wrong direction and were much too strong. The main thing we learned last year is that you have to be flexible in life, especially on a sailing boat. We left two days later.

On the road we soon discovered where the term "Seaman's stories" comes from. The sea can be rough -especially the North Sea where we started. Seasickness is not nice and a lot of things can and will break during a long trip at sea. As an example:

Sometimes you sail away with wind force 4, and during a multi-day trip the wind pulls to force 7 or more. That's quite a difference at sea! Not to mention the height of the waves sometimes. One night, on the high seas in the middle of the night, the boom clapped hard against Maarten's head. Another time a "harp" broke, so a very big sail dropped into the water and went under the whole boat. We always made it through, but it sometimes can be exciting at sea! Fortunately Maarten is



Daan with her big baby belly at the wheel.

very handy, so we can fix most of the things ourselves, even at sea.

We also had lots of very nice and easy trips at sea, with gorgeous waters, splendid winds, beautiful clouds and magnificent sunsets.

From Holland we went south to Portugal. From there we sailed during a couple days (and nights) to Madeira and Porto Santo. Then we went to the Canary Islands, where we got ourselves a new crewmember, cat Miss Luna. We found her in La Palma, a bit sick and thin. We took her to a doctor, refreshed her and even got her a Spanish passport. First we took her on a daytrip from La Palma to La Gomera. From the beginning she's been great on our boat.

After the Canary Islands, you need to cross the big Atlantic Ocean. So it's on the Canaries where we prepared for the Big Trip. We left La Gomera with a lot of groceries, water tanks full and our new Spanish friend. We were heading for Cape Verde. It took us a week to get there. Miss Luna loved the long trip. That's the only time we were also awake at night-- her playtime! We all enjoyed the ride!

We arrived a day before Daan's birthday -24 November- in Cape Verde. The big twist in our journey arose on the Cape Verdes. We needed to find a pregnancy test, which was not so easy to obtain. Finally we found one in the main town and discovered the great news that Daan was pregnant! All this right before our longest trip: the crossing of the Atlantic Ocean.

Normally Maarten gets more or less sick at sea. Now we both did. It took us 16 days at sea to arrive good and well in Suriname. So we had heaps of time to make a plan for our new situation. That's where the ABC islands came in. We found it a good idea to go to a Dutch Island to have the baby. It's nice to be able to speak your own language with such great events as giving birth. In Suriname we had our first ultrasound, which confirmed that Daan was really pregnant. Then we started talking with people about the ABC islands. Where should we go and why? Everybody recom-



Maarten deals with a barracuda caught at sea

mended we go to Bonaire, the beautiful small island, with nice and friendly people, a good atmosphere, opportunities to work, a new hospital and so on. Our decision was easily made. After visiting the Caribbean, we would go to Bonaire. And so we did.

We arrived on the 21st of May, so we've been here three weeks already. It's strange to be so far away from Holland, but at the same time to recognize familiar Dutch elements—the language of course, but also to find lots of Dutch foods for example. We're very glad that we're welcome here. We've already met a lot of nice people, including the midwife and nurses. We came in with ultrasound reports from three different countries and in three different languages. That happens when you move all the time and also want to have your check ups.

It's a bit strange to stay here for such a long time, after traveling around for a year. At the same time it's very nice and quiet to make our home and nest here. We hope to really

get to know Bonaire because we'll stay here for at least half a year. Maybe we can work here. That would be nice! We'll see. We're going to work on our boat as well; that never ends. Maarten will repair some sails with his sewing machine, getting rid of some rust, and so on.

In about six weeks the baby is coming. Does anyone have a perambulator (pram) for us? The sea and sailing are exciting, but having a baby on this beautiful island is thrilling too! So here we are. A year ago we wouldn't have imagined living on Bonaire for a while. We live by the day and see what the next stop will be. For now we're very glad to be here. ■

Danielle Stolwijk



The sailing vessel Lola carried Maarten and Daan across the sea

Sudoku Puzzle

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Pets of the Week

"Hey, can you spring us out of here?" Daisy, Dyson, Diana (and brother Dommel who is not in the photo because he was meeting with the probation officer) are looking for an escape route....out of the Bonaire Animal Shelter and into a loving home! Their crime? Having too much fun! These adorable kittens are 10-week old siblings and come in every possible



combination of black and white...male, female, short hair, long hair, tuxedo, capped, splotched or painted. The "D" gang arrived at the Shelter with their mom when they were only a few weeks old, so they are very used to human contact as no one at the Shelter could resist spending time holding and cuddling with them as they grew. Now they are ready to bust out of the Shelter holding pen and into the home and heart of the lucky human who is willing to post their bail. All are healthy with current vaccinations and the adoption fee includes sterilization once the kittens are of age. Please stop by the Shelter and see these little rascals. Visiting hours for the "inmates" are Monday through Saturday, 8am-1pm and 5 to 5pm. Tel. 717-4989.

WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com

JUNE IS ADOPT A SHELTER CAT MONTH

June is traditionally "Adopt a Shelter Cat" month in many countries. Why June? Because in countries with changing seasons cats breed more frequently in the spring which results in the high birthrates in June. Cat overpopulation is a serious problem all over the world....and is a very serious problem on Bonaire since it never gets too cold to deter cats from breeding. Unsterilized female cats can give birth up to 5 times a year, with an average of 4 or 5 kittens per litter. A female cat can become pregnant as early as 4 months old and, while her fertility may decrease at an older age, there is no "menopause" and an unsterilized female cat can always become pregnant. A female cat can actually be impregnated by more than one male and carry two different litters from different male cats. She can also become pregnant while nursing a litter. A single pair of cats and their kittens can produce 420,000 kittens in just 7 years! How can you help with this overpopulation

problem? In several ways. **First and foremost:** if you have a cat, be SURE that he/she is sterilized. There is no benefit to NOT sterilizing your cat. In fact, sterilization brings benefits. Unsterilized cats roam neighborhoods looking for mates, fight with other cats, develop abscesses and infections from the fights, the males spray nasty smelling urine to mark their territory where ever they go. Unsterilized males frequently develop urinary and bladder problems and unsterilized females are good candidates for breast cancer, both sexes if left unsterilized can also spread feline sexually transmitted diseases. **Sterilized cats will stay at home, be more affectionate, not smell up your house or your neighbor's car....and cost you less in time, trouble and money in veterinary bills.** The Bonaire Animal Shelter offers free sterilization for the smart pet owner who wants to sterilize their cat. Just bring it into the Shelter and they take care of the sterilization at no charge to you. If you have cats that just "stop by" your house for a visit, bring them too. If your cats are sterilized, spread the word to your neighbors and friends to do the same. We need to stop the overpopulation now!

Second: Adopt a cat (or two!) from the Bonaire Animal Shelter during June...or at any time during the year. Your adoption of a Shelter cat makes room for other unwanted cats to come to the Shelter and wait for a home. Adult cats are already sterilized. If you adopt a kitten, the adoption fee includes sterilization at the appropriate age. Right now there are numerous loving cats and kittens available for adoption that would love to make your house a home.

Third: Make any kind of donation you can to the Shelter Sterilization fund. Help the Shelter reduce the overpopulation of unwanted cats, kittens, dogs and puppies through the free sterilization program. ■ Jane Madden-Disko

Did You Know...

That the ocean sunfish, Mola Mola, may have a symbiotic relationship with albatrosses?

The ocean sunfish is one of the largest marine bony fishes, reaching 2.3 metric tons and 2.7 meters in length and can be found widely distributed in the tropics and subtropics. Mola Mola can often be found basking at the surface of the ocean for unknown reasons. It has been proposed that this behavior may be a way of allowing other organisms to clean the parasites off of the sunfish, which has been widely documented to have large numbers of parasites on its body. Recently, a school of juvenile ocean sunfish were seen sunning themselves off the coast of Japan and most had several visible parasites. When an albatross was seen near the school, the ocean sunfish did not try to avoid or flee from the bird, but rather, the school actively pursued the albatross. The bird then began eating parasites off the ocean sunfish. More albatross joined in and competed for the parasites on the ocean sunfish. It is believed that the ocean sunfish were sunning themselves to actively look for albatross that would remove their parasites. This could mean that ocean sunfish and albatross have a symbiotic relationship with one another that has, to this point, been undocumented. ■ Ashley Marranzino, Edited by Caren Eckrich

Ashley Marranzino studied at the CIEE Research Station Bonaire in the spring 2012 semester. Currently a junior at Regis



Mola Mola- Ocean sunfish

University in Colorado, she is majoring in Biology and intends to pursue a career in Marine Biology.



Ashley Marranzino,

The Bonaire Animal Shelter's second hand store (Pakus di Pruga) needs donations of household items, appliances, clothes, furniture, and anything else you want to get rid of. Call Paul at 787-0466 or Dabney at 717-3949 to arrange for them to pick up your donations.



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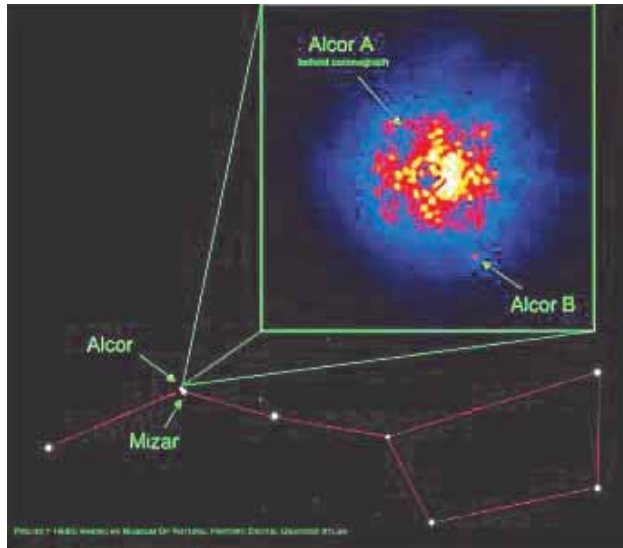
*to find it... just look up

THE HORSE ON THE HANDLE OF THE BIG DIPPER

Have you ever heard the story about the horse on the handle of the **Big Dipper**? Well it's a good one. Just face due north in the Sky Park before midnight and you will see the Big Dipper low on the horizon, either to the east of the **North Star** or west of the **North Star** or directly above it (its exact position depends on the time of night). Four stars trace out its cup and three stars make up its handle. But we're going to pay attention to what looks like to most people the one star at the bend of the handle, a star named **Mizar**.

Now although you have undoubtedly seen this star many times, have you ever looked at it really close? Because if you do look at it really close you will see that it is not just one star but two. Indeed right next to Mizar you can see a slightly dimmer star, a star named **Alcor**, which in Arabic means "the lost or friendless one." Now centuries ago it was said that these two stars - bright Mizar and dimmer Alcor - were used as a kind of ancient eye exam for a famous sultan's army. If a recruit could see both stars he was in, but if he couldn't he was out. I kind of question the validity of that story, however, because most people can see both stars. Although admittedly I have to use my glasses, so maybe the test was for older recruits.

At any rate, long ago these two stars became popularly known as "**The Horse and the Rider**", bright Mizar being the horse and dimmer Alcor being the friendless rider. And you can see them for yourself any night you can see the Big Dipper. And there our ancient eye test ends. But it doesn't end for modern eyes of a different kind, the eyes of tele-



scopes and spectroscopes, because if we look at Alcor, the rider, with a spectroscope we would see that this so-called friendless one is not so friendless after all. In fact Alcor has a companion rider, another star invisible to the naked eye, thus making Alcor two riders on Mizar, the horse. But that's not exactly true either because if we look really close at Mizar we discover that Mizar is also not just one star, not even two stars or three stars or four stars but is in fact a rare **quintuple star**.

In other words, when we look at this ancient Arab representation of a solitary horse with a solitary rider we are in reality looking at two horsemen driving a team of five horses across the night sky on the bend of the handle of the Big Dipper. Seven stars all told! Two double stars and one triple. Six of which are twice as big as our own million mile wide **Sun** and at least 50% brighter.

Incredible isn't it? What modern astronomy reveals about objects that generations of mankind have seen for thousands of years. So get outside, and gallop across the heavens with the horse and his rider, Mizar and Alcor, two visible stars which are in reality seven! ■

Dean Regas



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

June 2012

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You should channel your efforts into getting rid of bad habits. Organize social events or family gatherings. Partnerships could be tense. Don't push your luck. You may find yourself caught in a triangle. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Peers may not be on your side. You could receive recognition for a job well done. You will be able to talk about emotional problems with your partner. You must not let others talk you into doing things that will probably limit you financially at a later date. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You will get out of shape easily if you don't keep on top of things. You must consider yourself for a change. Sort situations out as best you can. Watch your spending habits. Try not to hang out with coworkers if you wish to avoid problems later. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Accept the inevitable, and opportunities for advancement will follow. Make plans that will take you to exotic destinations. Sudden changes in your financial situation are likely. Uncertainties about your living arrangements may be unnerving. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You should not be concerned with coworkers who insist on spreading rumors. You can be sure that any dealing with large institutions should go well. A quiet restful day just staying in bed or catching up on reading will be your best bet. Plan your social events carefully. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23) Don't let situations get out of hand. Toning, fitness, pampering should all be scheduled. You can get a great deal accomplished if you bring work home. Help elders get their personal papers in order. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You may have a problem at work with a female

worker. A lot can be accomplished if you organize your time. Build on friendship rather than starting out in an intimate encounter. Unfortunately, your personal life may suffer from a lack spare time. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You can meet potential new mates, but make sure that they aren't already committed to someone else. Difficulties with your mate may lead to isolation. Your communication skills will bring you popularity and increased self esteem. Your competitive nature will enable you to win any contest you enter. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Plans to make physical improvements may lead to psychological changes, too. Residential moves will be in your best interest. Your desire for excitement and adventure may be expensive. You will find that social activities will lead you into passionate meetings. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Don't be shy; if you want to spend more time with a special person, make a commitment. Your ability to dazzle others with your unique and innovative ideas will attract attention. Children may be difficult to deal with. Don't get involved in uncertain financial ventures. Don't let other people meddle in your private affairs. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Remember that no one can walk through your door if there's someone standing in the doorway. Get them to pitch in, if you need help. This will not be the best day to initiate change. Be sure to pay attention to your bank account. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You might find that a coworker has been too faced. This is not the day to be extravagant. Take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves. It might be time to make a fresh start. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday. ■

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