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FREE**

BONAIRE

January 11- 25, 2013 Year 20, Issue 1

The REPORTER



BES Island News Too

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 786-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com Since 1994

**Do You Know
This Man?
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Greta Kooistra photo



At Last! Some Price Relief

Effective the first of January, the Dutch government dropped the ABB sales tax for basic food items from 8% to 0% hoping to relieve some of the economic problems of the people of Bonaire.

Warehouse Bonaire led the way. On January 1 they dropped the prices on 1,385 products. Of course they were aware they had stock they paid the 8% on, but they chose for the consumer - make it simple, do it right away. **See, it was a Happy New Year for Warehouse customers. Roland Verbeek, Warehouse Manager** (photo above) said, "We hope that other companies like supermarkets, tokos, snacks and restaurants will follow and drop their prices too."

The **price of fuel at the pump also dropped 10 cents per liter** (\$0.38/gallon) to \$1.381/liter (\$5.23.gallon). This is still considerably more than gas in Curaçao which costs \$1.15/liter.

To evaluate whether the tax savings are being passed on to the consumer the newly formed consumers union, *Consumentenbond UNKOBON*, will begin checking the shelves this week and will issue periodic reports.



WEB, Bonaire's water and electric power supply company, is under fire for its rate-setting practices. Bonaire's Consumers' Union, **Unkobon**, is canvassing its members as to whether they want a court to **appoint auditors** to check that there are no material misstatements in regard to the completeness, validity and accuracy of the financial records of WEB. They feel that it would be the only way to get WEB to give consumers their entitled refunds.

During a court hearing on November 29 the judge agreed that WEB had overcharged consumers for October and November. As a result of this WEB offered to refund everybody \$11 which equates to 13% of the amounts overcharged. **Unkobon** suggested that it should be \$50,

which is the average of the over-charged amounts. This was refused by WEB because their financial situation wouldn't allow it as it would mean a financial outlay of \$100,000. Unkobon thinks that this is a pathetic gesture and that it is socially unacceptable and not worthy of a government institution.

Homeowners who are WEB's water customers NOT served by the water lines are irate that they are being exploited because they **must pay the top rate for WEB water, \$9.41 m³** (about 250 gallons) and in addition may have to pay a \$30 delivery charge. Pipeline customers' water charges start at \$2.81 m³. Since many growers and herders live on their *kunukus* (farms) they are ineligible for the *kunukero* rate of \$3.35 per m³. Even hotels pay less,

\$6.69 m³.

This is in direct conflict to the current initiative to make Bonaire more self-sufficient in its food sources.

► **A new law will become effective early 2014 to regulate energy production and distribution in the Caribbean Netherlands.** That law is to replace the current Law on Electricity Concessions BES.

The **move is necessary** because the reliability, affordability and sustainability of the public utilities leave much to be desired, according to Minister Kamp of Economic Affairs writing to the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament.

► Ten cents would get you a dance with a girl in the clubs of

early 20th century America. But what can it buy you today in Bonaire? Not much, most say, but **that's the amount of increase to the minimum wage granted by the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW).** The amounts for the minimum and maximum wages were lifted because of living cost increases on the island.

The amount of this increase has been criticized in the local media as **being inadequate to relieve the economic hardships retirees and poor people of the BES islands are experiencing.**

The level of the new minimum wage depends on the age of the employee. For workers aged 21 and older on Bonaire the **minimum hourly wage is up 10 cents, from \$4.45 in 2012 to**

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)

\$4.55 in 2013. Kingdom Representative Wilbur Stolte says that the **mid-income salary on Bonaire is \$565 a month.**

► Additional Dutch inspired measures to ease the tight economic situation on Bonaire include **adding items to the ABB (sales tax) exemptions list**, reducing the excise duties on gasoline by 10 cents, **exempting the first \$50,000** on the value of second homes of individuals from property tax and **reducing that tax** from 1% to 0.8% for most individuals and businesses and to 0.4% for hotels. See other stories in this issue for more.

► The 2013 monthly social payments for AOV (Retirement), AWW (Widows and Orphans) and Family Relief will be **raised by 2.3% on Bonaire; on St. Eustatius and Saba by 3.0%.** Amounts are:

General Old-age insurance (AOV), maximum benefit-
 Bonaire - was \$555, will be \$567
 St. Eustatius - was \$582, will be \$609
 Saba - was \$558, will be \$575

Family Relief

Bonaire - was \$85, will be \$87,
 St. Eustatius - was \$89, will be \$94
 Saba - was \$86, will be \$88

More details available at website www.rijksdienstcn.com.

► According to research by international consulting company Hay Group, **salaries in the Netherlands will rise by an average 2.4% next year.** On average, salaries in Europe will rise 3.3% with central and eastern European countries leading the way. Research by the Human Capital Group published in November said salaries in the Netherlands had risen by an average 1.9% this year. There are no statistics for Bonaire.

► **AMSTERDAM--The Amsterdam stock exchange blue chip AEX index closed 2012 up 9.7% over the year,** reaching its highest point since 2009. This is contrary to the downward trend in the overall Dutch economy.

Telecom group KPN was one of the big losers of 2012, closing down 60%. Shell and Arcelor Mittal also lost ground.

(Continued on page 4)

A Giant Step... Backwards

A Reporter Editorial



With just five business days remaining in 2012 Dutch Health Minister Edith Schippers announced sweeping reductions in the health insurance benefits for the BES Islands.

According to Bonaire medical professionals some of the cuts are discriminatory, will undermine the health of islanders, force physiotherapists to close their doors and will ultimately result in higher medical costs and greater suffering for Bonaire's people. **The most drastic cutback is in physiotherapy treatments and reduced dental care, but crutches are no longer compensated, primary psychological care eliminated** in cases of work and relationship issues, **hours for dietary advice** cut from 4 to 3, **IVF fertility treatment coverage** changed, and **orthodontic treatment** deleted, among other things.

Under the new rules a patient must pay for the first 20 physiotherapy treatments even if the treatment is ordered by a doctor. The cost for 20 "physio sessions" is approximately \$750 according to a local physiotherapist.

There is no coverage for preventive or "catch-up" dental care. The two and a half year "sanitation" program to bring the dental health of Bonaireans up to standard after countless years of neglect is terminated. Dentists agree that it is unacceptable and discriminatory to those who haven't been treated yet.

The rationale behind the cuts is that, because of bad economic conditions, benefits have to be cut and should correspond more closely to what they are in the European Netherlands.

But wait. The median monthly salary in The European Netherlands is \$2,671 after taxes (3Q-2012, source Wikipedia) compared to \$565 in Bonaire (2012, source Rijksoverheid/Kingdom Representative Wilbur Stolte). That's five times the local salary— that's on a par with Bosnia and Herzegovina or Belarus.

Additionally low cost supplemental insurance is available in the European Netherlands but not in the BES islands. So the burden for getting well in the most permanent and effective way— without drugs— falls on a population typically earning less than 20% of the population it is being compared to. A typical Bonairean worker would have to labor a month and a half to pay for his 20 physio treatments while a European Dutchman would have to work about a week. And he just does not have enough discretionary income to even think about dental care.

To further illustrate the unfairness, the former Antillean SVB government insurance paid all or most of costs for what the Dutch insurance cut. The changes smack of a gigantic misunderstanding of local conditions.

Dutch parliamentarian and ministerial representatives visiting Bonaire this month must rethink these measures and change them before the six-month grace period ends. ■ G.D.

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It has to be one of the best bargains since Dutchman Peter Minuet purchased Manhattan Island for \$24 from native Americans. Radio Nederland Wereld Omroep (RNWO) sold WEB, NV, its land and power plant at Barcadera, Colombia Plantation, for a symbolic \$1.

Radio Netherlands shortwave broadcasting was discontinued last year and the power plant and antenna farm, long a feature of Bonaire's west coast, was no longer needed.

The 4-6 megawatt capacity of the Radio Nederland power plant should help satisfy the needs of a growing Bonaire, perhaps solving the current electrical supply shortage on the island. It is interesting to note that in October 2003, when Bonaire was also beleaguered by electrical power failures, the Bonaire Management Group (BMG) which runs WEB and the labor union, FEDEBON, opposed using the RNWO power facility.

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3)
Airline Air France-KLM was the biggest gainer: up 75% over the year.

► In October 2012 the first part of the (real estate tax) value decrees "vastgoedbelasting" were mailed, with the remainder to follow in December. The tax assessments for 2011 and 2012 will be sent out as of mid-January 2013. The tax is intended for owners of a second home in Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius and limited liability firms that own real estate, and others. A press release stated: "If you believe that you should get a value decree by around January 5, 2013, but you have not received it yet, it is advisable to contact the Tax Department." Of course, if the postal service is interrupted, other delivery means will be required.

The Bonaire island Government also mailed the assessments for ground tax "grondbelasting" and land lease ("erfpacht") in December. People can contact the local government on these matters.

► **Pepper spray will be added to the regulation service weapon (pistol), baton and handcuffs equipment of the Caribbean Netherlands Police.** According to Chief Commissioner Jossy Rosales, pepper spray is part of the normal service kit of many police worldwide. Police will be trained in the proper use of the spray. Pepper spray cannot just be sprayed into the eyes, because the person must then be treated immediately for the terrible sting. For that reason the patrol cars are also being outfitted with water to rinse the eyes and face after the spray is used.

Their Walther P5-pistols will also be replaced with another type of firearm next year, said Corps Chief Jan Rooijakker. The Walther P5 is the gun used by James Bond in the movie Dr. No and others.

► Following the arrest of the owner and closure of Pachi's Place, Bonaire's only legal brothel, a **new escort and prostitution business named Men's Heaven opened in the "Hamlet" hotel area near Hato.**

Pachi's had been in operation for almost 40 years but was shuttered after allegations of human trafficking were brought against the owner. Apparently, as long as Pachi's Place was in operation no other legal brothel was permitted.

The Permit requests that Men's Heaven located at address Bulevar Gubanador N. Debrot number 103 (Hamlet number 10A) be allowed the following:



1. The operation of a massage institute, beauty salon, leisure center and "gym" relax-bar and coffee shop, bar, restaurant and snack;
2. Providing escort service;
3. The import, trading and sale of all beverages and tobacco;
4. Operating a video-, photo-, DVD- and CD studio;
5. Providing and organizing fashion shows;
6. The sale of erotic provocative articles, lingerie and exclusive clothing, watches, cosmetics, perfumes, electrical and electronic articles

► **Fundashon Mariadal, the foundation that runs San Francisco Hospital and other medical facilities on Bonaire, is focusing more attention on the care of children.** They now have a pediatrics team of seven medical professionals working in cooperation with Dutch hospitals VUMC and AMC. Two pediatricians have been permanently on staff since November 2011.

The team consists of Mechelien Rövekamp (pediatrician), Henriette van Laerhoven (pediatrician), Nicole Papadimitriou (child care nurse), Clarisca Montero (future child care nurse), Debby Braakman (assistant children's outpatients' clinic), Julisa Pilgrim-Hoevertsz (assistant children's outpatients' clinic) and Marta Frans-Paulina (assistant children's outpatients' clinic).

A new pediatric outpatients' clinic was opened opposite the hospital behind the family doctor center, in the same building as the decompression chamber. Appointment hours are Monday through Friday from 8am to 2:30pm. The office has already treated about a third of Bonaire's children.

Formerly there was just a part-time pediatrician on Bonaire who held consultation

(Continued on page 21)



Manager of RNWO Hans Linkels accepts the \$1 from WEB Director. Ir. Ger Voegesang at the Notary Office of Aniek Schouten.

Prison Extension Opens

On Monday 17th December the official opening of the new extension to the prison took place. About 200 people attended the ceremony on the grounds of the new extension. Security was tight: everybody was scanned, bags were searched and the guest list checked against ID cards. As I walked through the big gates into the holding area and they closed behind me I was stood with a few others in the secure space waiting for the next set of gates to open. Although I knew I was free to leave as and when I chose I did have a sense of having my freedom taken from me even if only in a small way. The high walls, bars, gates and large number of staff certainly made me feel small and vulnerable. We walked past the back of the older occupied cells where the prisoners had been locked in for the duration of the visitors arrival. Naturally they weren't silent and I can only imagine what they were shouting. Wolf whistles are understandable in any language, however.

The ceremony opened with the singing of the Dutch and Bonairean National Anthems and the flags were officially hoisted by a prison guard. No ribbons were cut or monuments unveiled, but a board was signed by Patricia Hassell, Dr Lydia Emerencia and Dr Peter Hennephof as the official opening.

The Director of the prison, Patricia Hassell, gave a speech that was passionate and moving. She said it was with mixed feelings that she was opening the extension; more cells were not a long term solution but she was pleased that all had been completed on time. It had taken 11 months to build from the date the order had been given for the work to start. She went on to say that she hoped that one day all members of society would be educated so that they would realise the consequences of their actions and that prisons would not be necessary. She looked forward to a Bonaire where nobody needed to be locked up.

Governor Dr Lydia Emerencia praised the various groups for having worked so well together to make this happen on time. She hoped that the new cells would provide a realistic chance for rehabilitation of offenders. Social economic developments must teach people how to deal with their problems in acceptable ways.

The pastor blessed the building, all 111 prison staff and the prisoners. He prayed that we may all together rehabilitate the prisoners so that they may return to society to function as law abiding respectable citizens. During his prayer he asked everybody to hold hands as a symbol of unity.

During the opening two long serving prison officers were honoured. I asked them what the difference was in being a prison warden now and when they first joined. They said that in the old days you could draw a line in the dirt with your foot and tell the prisoner to stand behind it. Now you risk physical and verbal abuse. Respect for authority has gone.

The 20-foot cells are laid out for two prisoners, they have bunk beds, a fan above each bed, a TV, ice cooler which is filled with ice at the beginning of each day, plastic cutlery and plates and a shower room with sink and toilet. Ventilation is via the open gated front and at the rear a secure 1/3 of the back wall vent to allow an air flow. The flooring is easily cleaned and hygienic for the climate. Prisoners are daily given a hot lunch, breakfast and dinner snack. They are locked in their cells from 5pm to 8am. Regardless of what rumours have been spread in the past, even though prisoners are indeed confined in containers the facility meets the international standards for the humane treatment of prisoners.

At the end all guests were allowed to choose a souvenir made by the prisoners. This was a money box in the shape of a house and painted in individual designs.

It is planned that the new prison on the road to Lagoen will also be ready on schedule in 2015 and it is hoped that the current extension will provide sufficient cells for prisoners till then. ■ *Carla Hay*



One of the cells

Bonaire has greater per capita capacity to deal with criminal detainees than Holland.



View of the prison yard. If the cells look like shipping containers that's because they are made of.

Air-Powered Cars-Perfect For Bonaire?

A Bonaire Reporter
Special Feature

The Dutch Parliament recently debated subsidizing electric vehicle charging stations for the BES Islands. But, as yet, none of the new generation of electric cars (Nissan Leaf, Chevrolet Volt or Toyota Prius plug-in, etc.) have been imported. But there is another technology to power automobiles, uniquely suited for Bonaire, that need no subsidy: air-powered cars.

Air-powered cars have been on the cusp of reality for more than a century. Sure, compressed air is a clean fuel, but so far it's not been efficient enough to power a car engine that will take you very far or very fast. Bonaire is one of the few places in the world where an infrastructure to "refuel" compressed air powered cars already exists because of the ubiquitous drive-up air fill stations for SCUBA divers. And Dive Friends is upgrading one of their stations for even more efficient fills.

Here's the gist of how an air-powered works. The driver steps on the accelerator, opening a valve that releases compressed air into the engine. The air expands, pushing against the engine's pistons and turning the car's crankshaft. Unfortunately, air power will accelerate you only to about 55 kilometers per hour.

Tata Motors, the Indian auto maker, may have dealt with this problem by adding a small gas motor that kicks in at 55 kilome-



Tata Mini CAT

ters per hour. Tata plans to deliver its air-powered MiniCAT, which stands for Compressed Air Technology, to customers in India by August, according to the Australian web site, The Motor Report. They claim that it'll cost just \$2 to fill the air tank, and that a full tank lasts about 300 kilometers. Of course, they also said the car would be ready in 2009.

Founded in 1945, today Tata Motors (NYSE: TTM) is India's biggest automobile manufacturer. While Tata has five assembly and manufacturing plants in India, they also have plants in the UK, Argentina, Thailand and South Africa.

Tata Motors is a very large and well-financed company. It owns Jaguar and Land Rover which it purchased for \$2.3bn (£1.4bn) in 2008.

The Indian version of the "Mini CAT" Air Car could cost \$8,200.

Details

The Mini CAT is a simple, light urban car, with a tubular chassis, a body of fiberglass that is glued not welded. A microprocessor



Toyota's Ku Rin,

is used to control all electrical functions of the car. A tiny radio transmitter sends instructions to the lights, turn signals and every other electrical device on the car. Which are not many.

The temperature of the clean air expelled by the exhaust pipe is between 0-15 degrees below zero, it can be used to air condition the MiniCAT with no loss of power or mileage; a plus in Bonaire for sure.

There are no keys, just an access card which can be read by the car from your pocket. The car has a top speed of 105 KM per hour or 60 mph, and would have a range of around 300 km or 185 miles between refuels. Refilling the car in Bonaire could take place at dive shop "drive throughs." A fill up only taking two to three minutes could cost about \$3-\$10 and the car will be ready to go another 300 kilometers. Gasoline currently costs \$1.481 per liter (\$5.61/gallon) in Bonaire. Typical Bonaire small cars usually get about 10 km per liter (25 mpg).

This car can also be filled at home with its on board compressor. It will take 3-4 hours to refill the tank, but it can be done while you sleep.

From a carbon emissions perspective, a similar air car, outperformed the Tesla Roadster (by 27%), the 2010 Toyota Prius (by 39%), the 2009 Honda Civic non-hybrid (by 63%) and the VW Jetta TDI Diesel (by 62%).



The vehicle itself is a six-seat mini van using two 340-liter carbon fiber air tanks which are filled with air to 4,350 psi.

Due to its simplicity, there is very little maintenance to be done on this car.

Tata Motors says that the cost of charging and running the Mini Cat will be about 1/10th of what it costs to operate a gasoline powered car. The MiniCat also uses regenerative braking similar to hybrids and electric cars, but instead of the braking charging a battery, the energy recovered is used to compress more air.

Toyota is also getting into the act. Toyota's Ku Rin, a little pencil-shaped rocket (3.5m long, but just 0.8m wide) recently broke the speed record for compressed air-powered vehicles by accelerating to 80.3 MPH (129.2km/h) running on compressed air alone.

This Air Car almost sounds too good to be true. We'll see in 2013. Given the history of air-powered cars, let's hope Tata's plans aren't just a lot of hot air. ■ John MacHaffie / G.D.

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CMBB Christmas Concert



On Saturday 22 December the Classical Music Board Bonaire organized its now traditional December Holiday Christmas Concert for the now fourth year running.

Artists living on Bonaire entertained the people of Bonaire and there was a mix of classical and traditional music.

Only a few seats were left in the Cacicque Room of the Plaza Resort Bonaire.

The varied program was professionally MC'd by Carla Hay.

The program opened in an intimate classical atmosphere with Elger Verschuur's beautiful rendition of Spanish pieces that are very demanding for the musician. Hans Faassen then accompanied him for Bach's very well known "Air."

The children's choir, Kanta Boneiru Rincon, enchanted the audience with various Christmas tunes. The children looked pretty in their new costumes which had been specially made for their Christmas performances of 2012/13. Under the guidance and leadership of Flora Claassen Molina the choir continues to develop. Flora is also developing in her role as conductor and is ably supported by Frans Lauen. The young quartet players, Fran-



Elger Verschuur



Francis Domacassé and Richinel Anthony

Give Every Child The Right To Play

Bonaire's Parke Publiko, the "We Dare to Care Park," was originally built for the purpose of finding solutions to some of the social problems affecting Bonaire's children. Its founders, Davika Bissessar and James Finies, started out 10 years ago with the motto "Keep our kids off the streets" and give them healthy, positive alternatives to what the Bonaire government was able to provide them at that time. Now the Parke needs financial help.

It appears contrary to the current government idea that improving, expanding and building new detention facilities can make Bonaire a better place. If the government can afford expensive jails and prisons why can't it divert some funds to support playgrounds? Prevention is always better than a cure.

The privately supported park is regularly used by pre-schools/kreshes, the elementary schools: Papa Cornes, Kristu Bon Wardador, Reina Beatrix, San Bernardo, Pelikaan, plus the "Skol di Bario" (FESBO) after school program. Over the years many other groups like the Zr Maria Hoppner, SGB, FORMA, Youth Outreach, Scadebo, Ariba Peru, FUKABO, Animal Shelter Foundation, FKPD, *Fundashon Saka Man Yuda Nos*, NGO Platform, *Bonairiaanse Jeugd zorg* took advantage of the infrastructure of the park in their programs.

And it's not only the youngsters who use the park. The senior citizen homes, *Ka'I Mimina/ Kas di Sosiego Fundashon Mariadal*, and others use it on a regular basis.

cis Domacassé and Richinel Anthony accompanied the choir.

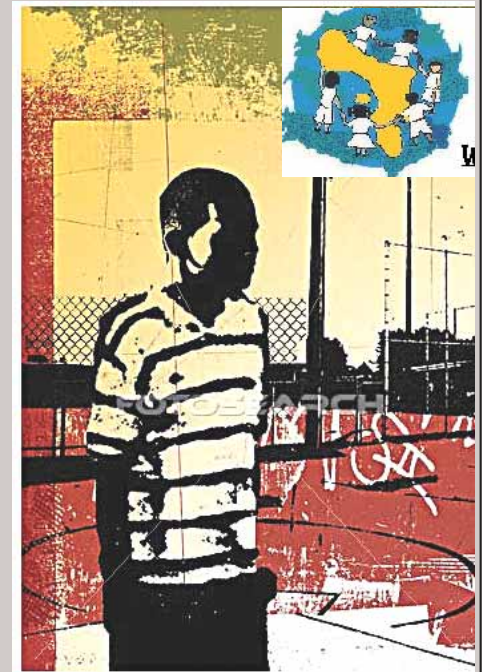
Our youngest experienced pianist Grep Linkels, aged 10, played a jolly Hungarian Danse by Diabelli with his teacher Hans Faassen. The performance was flawless and musically witty and modest.

Unfortunately Max Witten's scheduled solo on the piano couldn't take place but it was performed by Elger and Hans as Gounod's "Ave Maria." Elger and Hans surprised the audience with this beautiful piece.

The first half ended with a sing-a-long of three well known Christmas carols with the choir and Franklin Scherptong on piano.

The opening piece after the interval was something very special for Bonaire and a debut performance here for the artists Gaudry and Pauline Normand who played their very own created glass harps. A glass harp consists of a number of hollow quartz crystal tubes made from crystals from their own mine in Canada. Gaudry and Pauline have spent the last 11 years developing their harps. The end result was astounding and it is a miracle that such small instruments can produce such a huge, penetrating, pure and magnificent sound. The audience was asked to close their eyes to allow the sounds to penetrate deeper into the body. Christmas carols played on these harps do sound most heavenly indeed.

Returning to earth, Anne Hoemakers played Sydney Smith's very difficult piece Chanson Russe. As the piece progressed her playing became more and more con-



The *Parke Publiko Boneriano* Foundation needs help to continue. The small fee it charges (no fee for low income people) and its fundraising efforts cannot keep up with escalating cost of maintaining the top quality equipment, the grounds, utilities and a caretaker. Many people on the island believe it is the government's responsibility to maintain the facility as it does for the numerous playing fields for team sports.

If you agree that the government should help keep the Park in operation contact the Island Council members, the Executive Council members and RCN department leaders and express yourself. ■ *Press release/G.D.*

vincing and she finished the piece with some beautiful chords.

Finally the choir sang some of Flora Claassen Molina's own compositions and Franklin Scherptong accompanied the audience with the sing-a-long "We Wish You A Merry Christmas."

The after show party began well after 10 pm and unfortunately few people remained to enjoy the excellent vocal duo Giovanni Mercera and guest.

You can follow the Classical Music Board Bonaire's activities for 2013 on www.classicalmusicbonaire.com as well as on Facebook. The next concert will be in March. ■ *Carla Hay*



Carla Hay

BONAIRE ON WHEELS

This is the 123rd 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!

Dive Friends Also Cleans Bonaire Above The Water



From the left: Patrick van Hooijdonk, Carolyn Caporusso, Peter Kruidhof and Asko Zuidam. Four members of the crew of Dive Friends Bonaire in front of the new garbage trailer for collecting plastic debris from the East Coast.

Bonaire/Hato –
 It has four wheels and a spare one underneath but no steering wheel. Guess what it is? It’s the trailer for collecting plastic debris from the East Coast, owned by Dive Friends of Bonaire!

The Dutch-made tandem axles trailer is fitted with four sturdy 14-inch rubber shoes. The trailer is produced by Henra/Waco, Overloon, The Netherlands. The vehicle is made of galvanized steel to last longer. The trailer can hold a load of 2700 kilograms. Good job!

Some two months ago Dive Friends Bonaire celebrated their 10th birthday. Happy hours and a party were organized and speeches were made. Dive Friends Bonaire launched a new plan to contribute to a cleaner island. They converted a huge galvanized tandem axle trailer into a wire meshed trailer for collecting plastic debris from the East Coast. A huge sign on the rear of the trailer reads: “Debris Free Bonaire.” And this is the plan: Dive Friends Bonaire has five dive centers. Just go to one of those

centers to grab your tank and gear and also get a mesh bag. Travel to the East Coast and collect a bag full of plastic debris from the shore. Our East Coast gets more and more polluted by floating debris brought to our island by the currents from Latin America. Bring your full bag – it only takes five minutes to fill it – to the Dive Friends Bonaire Hamlet Oasis location, and dump the contents of your bag into the trailer. They were successful that the first big trash dumpster was filled in only 10 days!

Return the mesh bag to one of the members of the crew and leave your email address. Every time the trailer is completely filled a raffle is organized. Results of the raffle and a special web site are on the internet. Just go for “Dive Friends Bonaire” and “Debris.” Guess what? And yes, our island becomes cleaner, bit by bit. A very smart idea of the crew of Dive Friends Bonaire. A cleaner sea and a cleaner coast. More safety and less risk for fish and turtles. And remember: “Without blue—There is no green!” ■

Story & photo by J@n Brouwer

Feel Free: Wear a Helmet

This is the 12th of a series of Bonaire Reporter short articles by J@n Brouwer, about helmets and helmet awareness.

A jet helmet, dropped by an anonymous person, in a bucket next to the main entrance of my front garden. (Photograph: J@n Brouwer)

Bonaire/Hato –

Another fight against the deadline of this newspaper. In the afternoon of Friday, January 4, someone dropped a jet helmet in my front garden! On a more or less regular basis I receive jet helmets and full face helmets from motorized islanders, presumably because they have the intention to help me fight against the risky windmills of these days’ traffic.

A law for wearing a helmet on a motorized vehicle seems to be under construction.

As a wearer of helmets for over 40 years now I am **not** really in the need of more rules. Compared to the Old World and huge parts of the New World, Bonaire still has a high rank of freedom on a variety of levels. Less rules, less laws. This is one of the attractions of the island. Loads of people try to escape from the tight and overruled countries they come from. Bonaire means: freedom. So grab it and enjoy it. When your way of transportation is a moped, a motorcycle or a quad, just grab a helmet to protect your melon. That way your joy might last longer. Decide for yourself. Feel free! ■ Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



The latest donated helmet

Rocargo Rocks

Last month Rocargo Services celebrated its 30th Anniversary with a big party in front of its building on Kaya Industria. Rocargo is the ISO certified freight importing company on Bonaire and the Federal Express agent too.

Marisela and Robby Croes started the company in 1982 out of their home,

incorporating the then new concept of consolidated container shipping. In 1985 they moved the office to J.A. Abraham Blvd. and in 1995 moved it to its present modern purpose-built building at Kaya Industria 12, which incorporates “in-house” Customs clearance. The company offers weekly freight service from the US and The Netherlands in partnership with Amcar Freight and IFC International Freight; from Curacao with Caribbean Cargo; and for the Caribbean and Americas with King Ocean Services.

The party was completely organized by the employees and featured two bands, lots of food and drink, fun and few speeches. Key to the success of any company are its employees. Dedicated employees who were recognized and thanked for also celebrating anniversaries were:

Patricia, who for 15 years has headed the Import Department, Anneline, 15 years heading the Shipping Department, Albert 15 years in the Warehouse, Ana, 10 years

in Administration. Celebrating five years were Yardlin, in the export department, Lewison and Gershon in the warehouse, Jurina in Administration.

Rocargo is noted for “giving back” to the community and they sponsor too many activities to list. Their latest event was a clean-up in support of world clean up day in October. Over 100 participants worked to make Bonaire cleaner and better. Thanks Rocargo, we don’t know what we’d do without you.

■ G.D./Press release



Some of the Rocargo employees (and other) at the party



Marisela and Robby

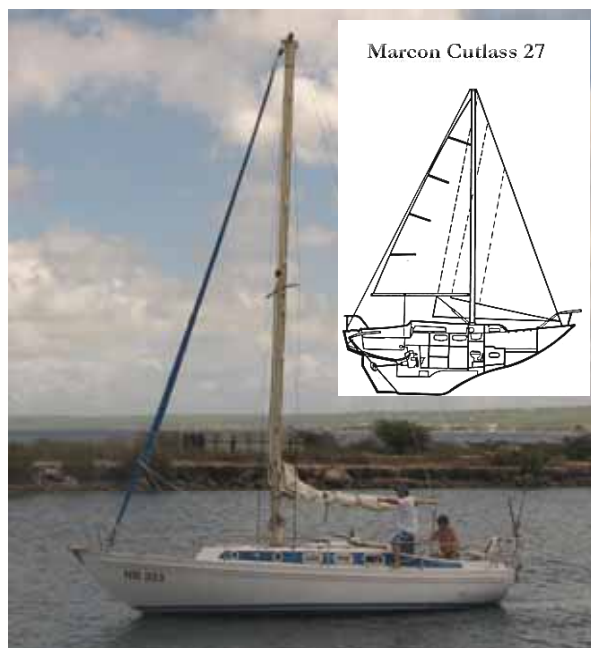
Bluewater Sailboat For Sale

Marcon Cutlass 27, all fiberglass, sailboat built to Lloyd specifications in England in 1969.

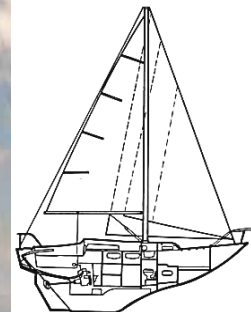
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On The Island Since... February 2008 - Sameh Hassan

“I was born in Cairo, Egypt, and I lived most of my life there. We are three brothers and one sister. I grew up in a middle class family; we have great respect for the elders and other family members. My father used to be the warehouse manager at the aircraft factory and my mom stayed home after she gave birth to my eldest brother. Like in most of the Middle Eastern countries we have very strong ties among the family. The Egyptians are not travelers; they stick to their roots. Once a person moves out of the parental home, he or she looks for a place closest to the family, because for us, being with the family is part of our life.

When I was a child, there was freedom, but it always had limits and when I got older I began to understand why. You can raise your child with some principals and direct control until a certain age and then you can set it free. It will build experience but it will never make big mistakes. This is what happened to me and my siblings. We had to follow the directions of our parents and after that my parents said: ‘Now we trust you, we trust your decisions and what you are going to do in your life.’ He smiles. “I remember one time I asked my father for advice and he said: ‘Son, I’ve trusted you since you were a teenager. I come from a different time and you are more aware than me about this time we live in. I know you will make the right choice.’

“Exchanging experiences and cultures without criticizing is the key to being happy on the island.”

I’ve been into sports – basketball – all my life. After I finished high school I joined the sports university and I always hung out with the sports guys, so this gave my parents a lot of confidence that I was not going to go on the wrong path. I graduated in 1995. First I became a basketball coach for the kids in the sports clubs. Later on I worked as a sports specialist for the government – organizing all the sports events and tournaments in the area I lived in. Then the university I’d graduated from offered me the position to train the university sports teams which involved very big tournaments all over the country. At the time I was in the process of buying my own apartment in Cairo and I needed more money, so I also started working for Inter Continental Hotel Cairo as the fitness center supervisor.” He laughs. “It was kind of a tough time for me because the first job I loved and the second one I needed, but I succeeded and I bought my own apartment in Cairo. I was happy – it had been a big challenge! So...” he grins “now the big question... how did I end up here?”

Although the Egyptians are no travelers, I am different. I love to travel! And I believe that’s why my mom keeps worrying about me until now because I am not like her other children. While I was working at the hotel I met a lot of people of different nationalities and that increased my desire to see more of the world. While half the world was travelling to Egypt to catch the sun on our beautiful beaches, to go diving or immerse themselves into its culture, I would go to Europe to look for some snow in Germany and Austria. I love the Alps and I enjoyed the climbing very much. You see, I am used to sun and warmth and what I missed was green

mountains and a landscape that gave me peace. I also found out there is no such thing as the perfect place. You have to create your own paradise. The place where you feel best is your place.

In Egypt I had met the woman I love most in my life, but somehow – because of the circumstances – we could not be together. It took me a long time to recover and what made it so hard was that it was nobody’s fault. So, I decided to go as far as possible and make a new start, but... before I left Egypt I met the girl who is now my ex-wife. She was Dutch and lived on Bonaire and she encouraged me to come here. When I arrived I found the climate was like summertime in Egypt and that Bonaire was too small and I wanted to leave the first month. What made it very difficult was that I came here without friends or family and I felt like my life had shrunk all of a sudden. I took the tourist guide course and started socializing to get to know some people, then I got an offer to work for Bonaire Tours as an operation assistant working with the cruise ships. It was a great experience for me; it reminded me of the old times in Egypt when I was working with tourists every day at the hotel. Through their stories I traveled to places I had never been and it fulfilled something in me – something I had felt since I was a child.

After some time I started my own busi-

ness as a massage therapist but it wasn’t enough to support my daily life. Then I got a call from Robert Smaal, the owner of Bonbida BonFysio who offered me the job. I was so happy to work in sports again like I used to do back home. I design the fitness programs to meet the client’s personal needs: whether they want to lose weight or build up their muscles or when they have a physical problem. It’s accurate and fun. It’s like having your own personal trainer. We do it together with the physical therapist. We have a great team, and we work with the latest fitness equipment. My goal is to help people reach theirs. This has given me a great balance because I am doing something I like.

I’ve met a lot of people and some of them became my friends, and we’ve grown very close. Then life changed and I started to see the positive things of Bonaire. Before, I saw the smallness of Bonaire in a negative way, but now that I am a part of this community, I see it positively. I do my job and I help people through my experience and that’s why I feel happy because I feel I am adding quality to this community. And so, I started to focus more on the values of the island; the quietness and the fact that there’s less pressure. I see the island people as one big family – each one of them coming from a different culture, but all living together in a small place in the world. Exchanging experiences and cultures without criticizing is the key to being happy on the island. In general, acceptance is living with the others without criticizing – this establishes peace. I am a person who always worries about others and I learned that others’ happiness reflects on me.

Of course I would like to travel to see



Sam at home



Sam at Bon Bida Spa and Gym

South America and the other islands, but then I cannot do that to my family and I don’t think I would enjoy it knowing I didn’t go to see them. Regardless of the political situation and the difficulties we have in Egypt now I feel I would always go back to my roots. One day I will go back to Egypt, but only God knows when. I miss the warmth of the people who know me in a way nobody else ever will. Of course there are bad things too, but this is what I feel and remember.

My mom wants me back – to be with my brothers. ‘You have to stick together once I’m gone,’ she says. It worries me – for my mom – but my passion is to see more of the world. The consequences, however, are that I am always in between what I have to do and what I want to do. But don’t get me wrong. I am not bothered by my family ties. You see, it’s what I like. There’s nothing

better in life than to feel that you are loved by your family and friends. This is unconditional love – they have no reason – they love me.

Now that I am more involved in the community here - which wasn’t easy because I don’t smoke or drink and I am not much of a water guy - I feel at home. I live in different circles. There’s the one of work, then the one of the worship place – I go to the mosque; we are a small community here, some Arabs, basically Lebanese and some Muslims from Surinam and medical students. And then there are my friends. All together it’s my life on Bonaire and I enjoy it.”

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra





Last Month the Bonaire NGO Platform in collaboration with Management Society & Care Public Body Bonaire, handed over the "key" to the Red Gold & Green Park at the Mentor intersection in Nord di Saliña. The area had served as an informal park for area residents for many years. The project was funded by USONA.



The Bonaire Sailing School celebrated the end of the season with the traditional End of the Year race with Happy Faces. Everyone won a nice prize thanks to Bonaire Food Group's donations.



Bistro Owner Patrice with Claudia the bar/serving manager



Dining at The Bistro de Paris

After a period of absence, the Mystery Gourmet and his even more mysterious wife have again returned to resume their comments as to the various island restaurants: food quality, presentation, service, ambiance and more being addressed.

During last month's time on the island the Gourmet and spouse visited four restaurants, two more than one time. Eventually, all will be reviewed if time and space in *The Reporter* permit, but one of the first offerings will describe lunch at the **Bistro de Paris**.

The mysterious pair have enjoyed many meals at the Bistro when at the previous location, however, the new location in the Harbour Village complex, where Captain Wook's, later the Paradise Moon were at one time, is, in our opinion, a major improvement. The restaurant is located near the marina docks, has been drastically remodeled, an indoor, air-conditioned room being constructed with windows providing a view of the marina. An outside dining area is preserved at dockside. Thus the diner has a choice of outdoor or indoor dining. The tables and chairs are quite comfortable, the decor pleasant and tasteful.

What more could one desire?

Entering the restaurant, the initial view is attractive and welcoming. We were hailed from the bar area, recognizing our arrival and a smiling, attractive young lady greeted us, led us to a table and brought iced water, menus and took drink orders. A nice full measure of an Italian white wine arrived.

The menu is similar to that offered at the previous location: appetizers, salads, sandwiches, entrees offering seafood, fish, beef and lamb. The Bistro's cheeseburger is said to be one of if not the best on the island. The bar offerings cover the usual desires and both the red and white wines are extremely nice. After all, this is a French restaurant.

For this lunch both the Gourmet and spouse chose the Cobb salad. As is routine at the Bistro, the quality, quantity, preparation and presentation of the food is above reproach. The lettuce was fresh, crisp, cold and nicely prepared. The chicken breast, cheese, croutons, dressing and more were simply delicious. Where does one find such an avocado?

As we prepared to leave the inside dining area was filling up. For good reason the Bistro de Paris will not lack for diners. ■

The Mystery Gourmet

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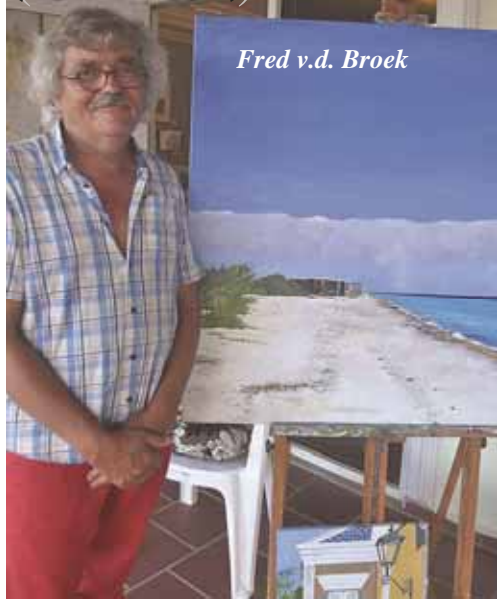
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Kaminda di Arte (Art Tour) Continues

This month's Kaminda di Arte (Art Tour) will be on Sunday, January 20. Between 11 am and 4 pm the public is invited to visit artists in their studios and meet them and their works, face to face. This is the third year for this highly successful and popular event, which takes place every third Sunday of the month. This year's Kaminda ends in March.

Hundreds of residents and visitors have enjoyed a "peek" into the studios of very different local artists. Artists show works in watercolors, oils, mosaics, refined driftwood pieces and other mediums.

Free flyers and maps are available at the TCB, various shops and big resorts. They give brief biographies and addresses of the



Fred v.d. Broek



Helen Dovale

artists: Wolmoet Jansen, Alejandra Riquelme, Janis Huckaby Baillie, Ans Klein Heerenbrink, Fred v.d. Broek, Luz Aida Franco-Wesselijs, Jose Smit, Henk Roozendaal, Alexandra Jansen, Helen Dovale and Margreet Faassen-Pijpers. ■ Story & Photos by Laura DeSalvo



Alexandra Jansen



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Fiesta di Nort di Salina Cover Story

It was the third time the festival took place and this time it started shortly before dark and drew lots of people. The official opening was done by the governor and the spiritual opening by Reverend Papa Francees. The Maskarada Group was welcomed back. There was a great ambiance, very happy and peaceful and the typical rousing music, which has its roots in this authentic and beautiful village. Papito Thomas from Fundashon Nawati - the organizer of the festival - was content.



Krioyo Kids. What professionals, what a beat!

"The change we made from the daytime to the late afternoon made a big difference; it was an excellent move!

People don't like the hot sun. We are doing it for the people of Nort di Salina and when we see more and more people joining the party it's an extra kick for us to go on. We hope it will gain the interest of many more people from all over the island and that over time it will establish itself as one of the best parties on Bonaire!" ■ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



The Maskarada Dancers unmasked

Telbo supports charities through the support of loyal customers

Through sponsorship and donations Telbo has supported the organisations listed below in 2012. However, without the trust and loyalty of our customers we could not have made this possible. Therefore we would like to thank all of our customers and we wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous 2013!

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Bonaire Coral Puzzle 9: Coral Behavior

The puzzles of this series resulted from my study of our Bonaire reef corals. The surprising prevalence of coral coverage on the right halves of the faces of 21 inshore boat mooring blocks (see *The Bonaire Reporter* of December 7 - 21, 2012) puzzled many readers. Not finding environmental factors that differ between right and left halves of block faces, readers looked for forces that could actively move coral larvae to the right during settlement. Suggestions included forces caused by water flow around the blocks, the Coriolis force caused by Earth rotation, and "magnetic pull of some kind or the moon's gravitational effects."

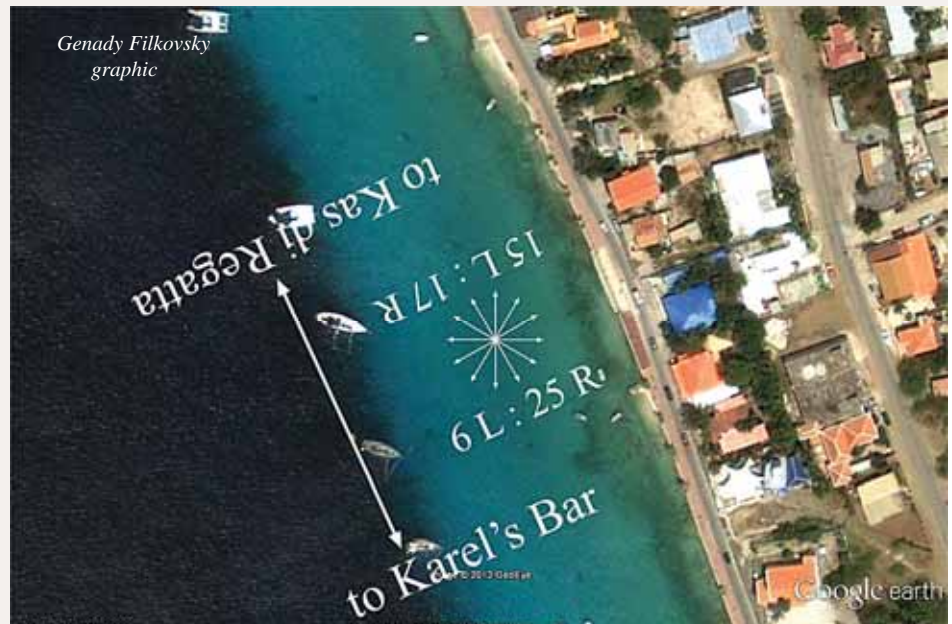
This is a promising direction of thinking, but these explanations have serious flaws. Firstly, these forces do not distinguish between the inshore and the offshore moorings – as a reader from New York put it, "that would presumably affect the offshore moorings as well." This is a flaw because right-dominant faces prevail among the inshore blocks but not among the offshore ones. Secondly, with the exception of Coriolis force, these forces do not distinguish between left and right. For each orientation of a face where a force would pull coral larvae toward right, there is a corresponding orientation where it would pull larvae toward the left. Because the blocks are oriented randomly, there would be about equal numbers of left and right-dominant faces.

Coriolis force is the only force that distinguishes between left and right; it deflects global winds, major rivers and oceanic cur-

rents to the right in the Northern hemisphere and to the left in the Southern hemisphere. But it is too weak to be expressed on the small scale of our mooring blocks and slow currents, and it is almost non-existing near the equator - where our Bonairean corals are!

This brings up two important questions. The first question is regarding the nature of the forces that move coral larvae. Are they necessarily external? The answer is, no, not necessarily. Coral larvae are not just small particles pushed around by external forces. They are active little animals. They swim and crawl on their own, sense and respond to chemicals in water and on substrate, temperature, pressure, light, sound, even substrate color. They have preferences regarding places that fit for settlement, and they actively look for such places. After larvae arrive at a potential settlement surface, they spend some time moving around and probing the surface for the appropriate, albeit subtle cues before choosing where to firmly attach and calcify. They might arrive at a face randomly but settle more often on its right half if the preferred settlement places are more common there than on the left half.

The second question is regarding orientation of the left and right-dominant faces – as a reader from Oregon put it, "what direction each side favored was". The right-dominant faces are prevalent in some but not in other orientations of the block faces. Of the 63 vertical faces on inshore mooring blocks, 32 are oriented in the general direction of Kas di Regatta, and they are almost equally di-



(L = left-dominant faces; R = right-dominant faces)

vided: 15 faces are left-dominant and 17 faces are right-dominant. The other 31 of the 63 faces are oriented in the general direction of Karel's Bar, and there is a large inequality among them: only 6 are left-dominant while 25 are right-dominant.

To summarize, on the inshore block faces which are oriented toward Karel's Bar, coral larvae preferred to settle on the right halves. What caused this preference? What was wrong with these faces' left halves? Why was this preference expressed only on the inshore mooring blocks? Why was it expressed only on the faces oriented toward Karel's Bar? ■ Genady Filkovsky

If you are interested in discussing these puzzles, their solutions, or to get more information, write to Genady Filkovsky, e-mail: lagoen-hill20@yahoo.com



All previous issues of the series can be accessed through the web-site www.filkovsky.net/bonaire-coral-puzzle.html.



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Bonaire Reporter- Jan. 11-25, 2013



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GUARDIAN OF NATURE



Hans planted a Moringa tree

“I was always fantasizing about having a piece of land myself which I would protect. There I would leave nature alone and try to live off the land, preferably somewhere in a lush bush with waterfalls and mountains. Somehow I ended up on Bonaire, an island with a semi desert climate!”

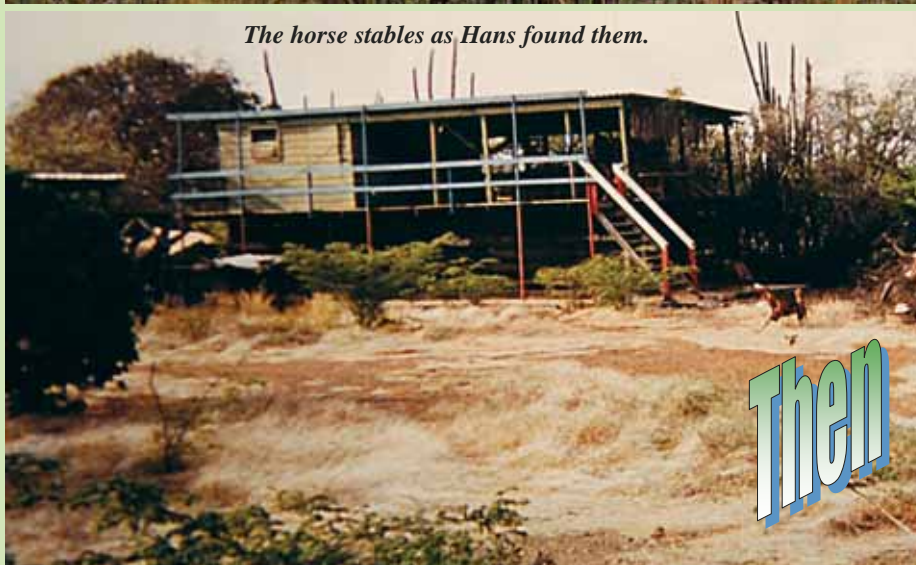
Living on a barren kunuku with no electricity, no fridge, no running water with some oil lamps for company— it wasn't always an easy ride for Hans Voerman. He said, “I was almost camping,” and with no toilet either, he really was! This was the humble start of Auriga Ecolodge Bonaire.

Hans came to Bonaire in 1990 to visit his dive sergeant from the Engineering Corps where he was previously enlisted. He was travelling after being unsure of what to do next. After arriving on Curacao and spending 30 minutes there he left swiftly to Bonaire where, “Well the usual story you hear... I fell in love. It used to be very quiet and relaxed. There were ‘few Dutch!’” He laughs. “And the Dutch who were here had interesting stories to tell!” He started working as a dive instructor and moved to and from Bonaire until 10 years ago when upon returning he started Outdoor Bonaire (www.outdoorbonaire.com). With Outdoor Bonaire, he could do everything he did as a hobby: mangrove kayaking, cave tours, climbing, rappelling, hiking, island/park tours.

A few years later he had the opportunity to buy the land he lived on at the time. He had a hard time visualizing this barren plot being anything like his dream of waterfalls and virgin land, but he got working on the fence to keep out the grazing four-legged klikos (the green bins provided on Bonaire by Selibon). It was quite an undertaking with a property of 13,500m² (145,313 ft²).



The Auriga Ecolodge Bonaire today and the revival of the land.



The horse stables as Hans found them.

The existing fences provided a framework for three distinct areas. Half would be left undisturbed and rarely walked on. A quarter would be replanted with local trees for birds and people. Examples such as Tamarind or Taki serve both. The Taki fruit birds love, humans can cook and the tree is evergreen with no thorns. The other local trees are Watakeli, Kirbrahacha, Palu Di Sia, Oliba, Kalbas, Apeldam, Stoki (which flowers at night and attracts bats), Wayaka, Dividivi, Palu di Santu and more.

It is quite remarkable to see the effect of fencing and conservation on Bonaire. In this Serengeti type landscape you can start to imagine what Bonaire may have looked like in the past. Sometimes I expected a Giraffe to pass me by!

The last quarter around the cluster of structures is more for human use and not necessarily local (but of course the birds are welcome): Oba, Moringa, Kenepa, Soursop, Pomegranate, Guava, Banana and self seeding trees like the Shimaruku which grow where they like. In this area he has also built a chicken pen and a greenhouse. He has been experimenting there and has noticed that the local/Surinam vegetables work best: local spinach, *tajerblad* (taro), sweet potatoes and *kouseband* (type of long bean). He says, “It's hard to make it worthwhile but I keep trying.” Also in there is his Sabal Palm project where he is growing seedlings.

In a new bed is also the result of a six-month debate we had previously: who had the real *Senna alata* (also known as Barba di Yonkerman or Candlebush)? This wild shrub has showy flowers that protrude like yellow candles above its pinnate leaves that occur rapidly after rainfall. The crushed leaves were used against all sorts of skin diseases including ringworm. We were both growing what we thought was *Senna alata* at the same time but unfortunately they looked completely different. Hans wanted to know who was right and planted both next to each other. As it turned out, my seedling was the true *Senna alata*, and I received a

Duvel beer (obviously it all got heated towards the end and we shook on a beer as wager). He also threw in three delicious fresh eggs!

Hans is now looking into food sources for his animals such as Almond Trees, Moringa and Negrita di Malpais (Acacia glauca), which is not for pigs, however. On a side note the *Negrita di Malpais* is a nitrogen fixer (benefits soil by fixing nitrogen into its roots), quick growing and provides shade. He is also looking at the possibilities of staple crops such as corn.



Senna alata

Also within this quarter of land is Hans' labor of love: the Auriga Ecolodge Bonaire (www.ecolodgebonaire.com). A beautifully renovated horse stable, running on solar energy, gravity fed water and as much recycling as possible. For every booking he plants a local tree in his replanting sector; usually a large, established tree from Green Label or one from Edsel Martha (near LVV).

As you sit on the stargazing tower you feel a sense of peace, watching parrots fly eye-level and it's apparent that maybe he didn't find his waterfall, but he did guard nature and it made him a paradise in return. And this is only just the beginning... ■

Story & photos by Clark Heijbroek

Heijbroek is a Landscaper at Green Label



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Sustainability Fair Success

“B oneiru Duradero,” the second exhibition on environmental sustainability this month, was a tremendous success with a large turnout and interesting exhibits. It was held on Saturday, December 15, at Jong Bonaire. There were more than 27 stands where visitors got information and could buy sustainable products, several workshops and interactive presentations. There was an entrance ticket raffle with several prizes, a coloring contest and other activities for children.

The event opened with the especially composed *Boneiru Duradero* theme song. There were speeches from Evert Piar from the Chamber of Commerce, Deputy of Economic Affairs Burney El Hage, Karel Drijver from the World Wildlife Fund for Nature and Hayo Haanstra from the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

The opening speeches had the common theme of stressing the need for living, working and producing sustainably. We, individuals, governments and businesses have the world on loan for our children and need to be responsible for its and their continued existence. Bonaire aims to be a leader for sustainability in the Caribbean and the other islands can learn much from Bonaire as much as Bonaire can learn from the other islands.

The process of sustainable living is a gradual one and all should aim to become aware of their impact on the planet.

The exhibits consisted of amongst others:

- Eco friendly office products
- Homemade Christmas cakes, jams, pies and sweets.
- Freshly squeezed guyaba juice
- Plants grown on Bonaire
- Second hand goods
- Eco friendly home solutions
- Recycling of household products
- Bonairean honey
- Environmentally friendly products. ■ Carla Hay



BON RECYCLING, located in Santa Clara past Mikey's Snack, is the effort of Edison Rijna and Herbert De Jongh. They process cartons, plastic bottles, aluminum cans. The public may deposit aluminum cans and plastic bottles in two bins- on Kaya Italia, near Bon Appetite Restaurant. Recycling is a part of a plan that will allow eliminating the present landfill within three years using a combination of recycling, composting and off-island disposal.



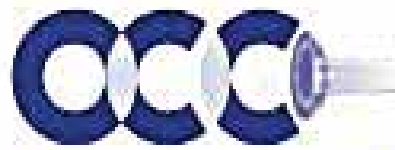
Oliver Larsen and Paul Mahlitz from the Technical University of Berlin; Bonaire Landfill Supervisor Randy Leonara; Sylvester Agoh from UNESCO Institute for Hydrological Engineering, Delft, Holland; and SELIBON head Rudsel Lieta



Jacqueline and Bart Landheer showed safety goggles for those watching and setting off fireworks. On December 17 at Jong Bonaire there was a demonstration by the fire brigade on how to safely set up and light fireworks.



Suzel Baraton's new product for Bonaire - recycled cardboard made into beautiful hand painted boxes



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BONAIRE REEF STORIES

With **CAPTAIN DON STEWART** BY D. SERAFINI

Don takes his friends to explore the mangroves at Lac Bay.

We just need to paddle a bit more and we'll be at a fantastic place to snorkel. You'll be very surprised

I thought the mangroves only had mosquitos

Don, are you sure that we will see fish?

The mangroves are a sanctuary for many small creatures. Open your eyes!!

Wow! Snappers and barracudas!

Juvenile fish, lobsters and turtles use the mangrove forest like a nursery. They grow in peace before swimming out to the wild open sea and reef.

The mangrove is the forest of the sea. Trees pump the sea water with their roots, filtering and converting salt water into fresh water.

Mangroves are part of a very complex ecosystem. Mangroves capture CO2 and produce oxygen. Sea birds, fish and others find protection under the branches and between the roots.

In many places around the world the mangroves have been burned to make charcoal. When the mangroves are destroyed, the coastline is no longer protected from the erosion of big waves and tsunamis. In Bonaire the mangroves of Lac are protected by the Marine Park as a sanctuary, where sealife prospers under the shady trees.
Mama Smile

Produced by the Tourism Corporation Bonaire as a part of the awareness campaign focused on developing a sustainable Bonaire

The Story Behind The Reef Story Comic Strip

Bonaire Reef Stories was created to inform young Bonaireans about the reef, the fragility of the island's ecosystem and the need to protect it for future generations.

Artist Dominique Serafini talks about his work with Captain Don: "Creating this economic series with Captain Don was a great pleasure for me. It reminds me of when I was working with Captain Cousteau. Like Cousteau, Don is a pioneer in diving and reef conservation. After many years on the small island of Bonaire, Don understands the need to protect the island's fragile natural reserves from the consequences of human activity. Pollution, mass tourism, overbuilding close to the shore and fishing have contributed to the destruction of Bonaire's real treasure - its pristine coral reef."

Don Stewart came to Bonaire in 1962 by sailboat. After his first dive, he decided to stay in Bonaire and he created the first dive center. To protect the reef from the destruction of anchors, he developed Bonaire's famous mooring system. He was also instrumental in the ban on spear fishing.

Dominique Serafini is a French illustrator and painter, fascinated by the beauty of the sea. With Jacques Cousteau, he created a series of graphic novels called *L'Aventure de l'Equipe Cousteau*. In 2012, together with Captain Paul Watson of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, Dominique wrote and illustrated the first in a series of graphic novels on Sea Shepherd's struggle to protect the world's oceans.

Also see: http://www.dreamwrecks.com/DreamWrecks/Captain_Dons_Bonaire_Reef_Stories.html ■



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Picture Yourself With The Reporter In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Fábio Miyata writes, "On my vacation my girlfriend and I stayed on Bonaire and enjoyed it a lot. I'm a geographer and live in São Paulo, Brazil, but sometimes I go to Rio de Janeiro to work and the picture is front of Sugarloaf."

Some information about Rio de Janeiro (Wikipedia) it's the second largest city of Brazil, and the third largest metropolitan area and agglomeration in South America, boasting approximately 6.3 million people within the city proper.

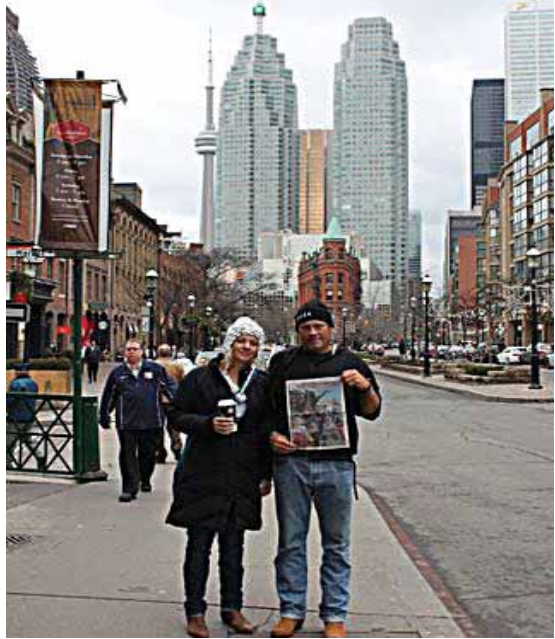
The Sugarloaf is only one of several monolithic morros (hills) of granite and quartz that rise straight from the water's edge around Rio de Janeiro. ■



Picture Yourself With The Reporter In Toronto, Canada

Bonaire resident Monique van Hooidek and her boyfriend, Scott Hardy, wrote from Toronto, Canada, where they spent a week freezing but still said it was a great getaway!

This picture was taken by the famous St. Lawrence Food Market with the CN tower and flat iron building in the background. ■



To help catch up with the backlog of Picture Yourself entries we are publishing two submissions per edition

For Picture Yourself in the Bonaire Reporter WE NEED PHOTOS!

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Get Ready!

25th Bonaire International & Local Fishing Tournament And Boat Party

The Bonaire Local and International Fishing Tournament will take place Jan. 17 – 19th 2013. This is its 25th year, and will be a fantastic "double" event.

The local tournament is open to all boats (even if they are not from Bonaire) and is targeting edible fish. There is \$1000 in cash prizes and other valuable prizes to be split among the small boats (less than 17') and again the same for the boats 17' and larger. Entry is \$50 and includes goodies, T-Shirts and 4 fabulous dinners at the event. You get to keep the fish and if you catch too much, we will have a place set up for you to sell them to the onlookers.

The International tournament is a catch and release tournament that is targeting billfish. All of the rules set out by the International Game Fishing Association (IGFA) will be followed. Use of Circle hooks to limit the harm to the fish that are released are recommended. The grand prize is a Toyota Hilux for breaking the Antillean record for largest Blue Marlin. The current

record is 804lbs (365kg). There is US\$12,500 in cash prizes for this exciting event.

To make this year really special, The Billfish Foundation will be joining to educate the anglers on best practices and tagging of fish. They will be bringing tags so that we can begin marking the fish in this area and see where they may turn up next. This tagging initiative began in 1990 and has over 200,000 fish tagged to date. This program gives vital information to the scientists on the migration, population and growth of the fish. To help support their efforts there will be a silent auction of some beautiful art work and valuable items. ■ *Press release*



Self-Built Boat Races

On Saturday January 19th we look forward to seeing you with a self-built boat at our **Ship to Shore Boat party** by Club Nautico and It Rain's Fishes restaurant. We are looking for fun and simple boats, floats and contraptions to move at least two people about 50m and back. The most important rules are to have fun, stay safe (you must know how to swim, just in case) and don't pollute! Better yet, Recycle! The prizes are for the fastest boat, best use of recycled materials, most professional and most creative. Stop by Budget Marine to get the full rules and sign up.

Don't say there is no time. We are not looking for boats to last a lifetime. Cardboard boxes, bottles, barrels - you name it will do. A weekend project and there you have it! You can win valuable prizes and gift certificates. Check out <http://www.bonairefishingtournaments.com> for



Recycled cardboard pussycat boat

pictures and ideas.

The Ship to Shore party is the last day of the 25th International and Local Fishing tournaments, so be sure to come by and check out the festival. There will be a stand set up where you can buy some of the fresh catch of the day, but don't be late! Enjoy great buffets, drinks, music and slides of the day's events Thursday – Saturday evenings. ■ *Press release/Pam Teitel-Werdash*

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

Sudoku Solution

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

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Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri 11	00:32 0.13 ft	04:56 0.01 ft	12:02 1.13 ft	20:44 -0.24 ft	New Moon	6:59	18:27
Sat 12	01:54 0.20 ft	06:09 0.09 ft	12:58 1.05 ft	21:33 -0.25 ft		7:00	18:28
Sun 13	03:07 0.30 ft	07:38 0.17 ft	13:56 0.94 ft	22:18 -0.25 ft		7:00	18:29
Mon 14	04:09 0.42 ft	09:16 0.21 ft	14:56 0.82 ft	23:00 -0.24 ft		7:00	18:29
Tue 15	05:01 0.54 ft	10:52 0.21 ft	15:56 0.69 ft	23:38 -0.21 ft		7:00	18:30
Wed 16	05:47 0.66 ft	12:17 0.18 ft	16:55 0.57 ft			7:00	18:30
Thu 17		00:14 -0.18 ft	06:29 0.76 ft	13:32 0.12 ft	17:53 0.45 ft	7:00	18:31
Fri 18	First Quarter	00:47 -0.14 ft	07:10 0.83 ft	14:39 0.07 ft	18:49 0.36 ft	7:01	18:31
Sat 19		01:17 -0.10 ft	07:48 0.88 ft	15:39 0.02 ft	19:42 0.27 ft	7:01	18:32
Sun 20		01:44 -0.06 ft	08:24 0.91 ft	16:36 -0.01 ft	20:33 0.20 ft	7:01	18:32
Mon 21		02:08 -0.03 ft	09:00 0.92 ft	17:31 -0.03 ft	21:25 0.14 ft	7:01	18:33
Tue 22		02:27 0.00 ft	09:36 0.92 ft	18:26 -0.05 ft	22:21 0.10 ft	7:01	18:33
Wed 23		02:42 0.02 ft	10:11 0.91 ft	19:20 -0.07 ft	23:30 0.07 ft	7:01	18:34
Thu 24		02:48 0.04 ft	10:46 0.89 ft	20:12 -0.08 ft		7:01	18:34
Fri 25	11:23 0.86 ft	20:57 -0.09 ft				7:01	18:35

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Guest Editorial

Opinions expressed are those of the writer, not necessarily those of *The Reporter*

The Narrow and Wide Path

While we wait for the moment when the island of Bonaire can bring itself to make available a public location for concerts and theatre performances (a *Kas di Kultura*, a long held wish that I have been boring my friends and acquaintances with for years), classical concerts are being held at the Plaza Resort.

It was at this location that we enjoyed a marvellous concert recently. It was organised by the Classical Music Board Bonaire, an organization devoted to bringing beautiful music to Bonaire and which has been doing so for the last three years.

Visitors arriving at Plaza Resort for the purpose of attending a concert have to walk for a bit. Past the reception straight ahead down the corridor and then you find yourself with a choice between two doors.

The right door leads into the Cacique room, a salon tastefully furnished by the organisers. A beautiful grand piano, flowers, paintings on the walls and the seats arranged as in an amphitheatre semi-circle around the stage. It is a small palace dedicated to culture. Young and old from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds have been enjoying classical music here for three years now.

There is also a door to the left. Directly across from the entrance to the concert room one finds the entrance to the casino: a fully acclimatised environment. Greedy eyes with dollar signs track the displays of the jingling slot machines. Some tables are surrounded by an interesting entourage of ladies and gentlemen who intently eyeball the stacks of chips, and each other.

Before the concert started I was reminded of the beautiful poster that I am able to admire almost daily, right down the last intricate detail, in the rest room of my home. I had bought this print as a student at a stall with religious articles at the *Museumplein* in Amsterdam. It belonged to an ecclesiastical organization with a strong evangelistic purpose. Bibles, devotional pictures, memorial cards for the living and for those who have passed all found their way over the counter, just as did this 16 by 20 inch sign providing a vivid insight into the path to good and the path to evil. The beautifully colored landscape contained an interesting separation.

On the left side a wide path leads through a sloping landscape ascending into dark clouds. One passes fairs, dance halls and candy stores, houses of pleasure, money changers, casinos and gambling houses along the way as one is led into hell. Lepers, cripples and chronically ill find themselves trapped in a lazaret or lepers colony. Near skeletons on wiry legs raise their arms as they hopelessly try to resist the purgatory fire. The weather, by the way is not so good there.

On the right side of the image a modest piazza leads up to a narrow road. This in turn transforms itself into a mountain path along cliffs and ravines. It is difficult to pass over but fortunately ends at a beautiful terminus. Heaven. A choir of angels accompanied by Jesus await to welcome the fatigued God-seeking traveller. One passes schools, libraries, concert halls, chapels, larger and smaller houses of worship at every hairpin turn. Scattered along the way are lakes, ponds and streams offering refreshment and soothing vistas, with trees providing shade and shelter for the necessary rest. All places to provide the individ-



ual with the rest, wisdom, righteousness and conviction to arrive at the higher grounds. There, high up in the sky behind an occasional flimsy cloud, shines an aureole of light where the Savior awaits.

You will understand what point I am trying to make. The narrow path of good and the wide path of evil were only meters apart at that evening at Plaza Resort Bonaire.

We enjoyed a brilliant performance by Nicaulis Alliey playing the flute, with Armand Simon on the piano. We drifted away on the notes of Bach and Bolling, and on melodies from the opera *Carmen*. Happiness was ours, augmented by the fact that we found ourselves in the culturally diverse but like minded company enjoying the same things. I believe that music unifies, brings people together, especially when the listeners come from all over the world.

At the end of the concert we made our way to the bar for an agreeable glass of wine and some pleasant conversation with the performing artists.

As a consequence I found myself searching for the toilets in the large hallway but found these to be inaccessible, not because they were occupied but because they were locked shut.

Back to the bar. The intern on duty informed me that it was standing policy to lock the toilets after 8 pm. My surprised expression was noticed by a young man employed by the resort. He explained matters further. "We lock the toilets after 8 pm because we do not want to take the chance that they will be used by the guests of the casino. They could do all sort of things there, use drugs and whatnot." He went on to offer me well meant and very practical advice. "You can off course use the toilets in the casino. Those are still open."

Reluctantly I made my way into the arctic airs of the casino. Ventured to find the rest rooms between the ringing machines, the flashing lights and the covetous and greedy expressions. I decided to backtrack half-way.

I was on the wrong path. I had passed the wide gate with the temptations of the worldly life. The image of the poster of my college days came before me with great clarity. I rushed myself to a tree in the resorts garden, raised my eyes at the clear star starry sky and a crisp crescent moon. I found myself relieved to have regained sight of a life that can end well. It had been quite a night. ■

Guus Gerritsen



Bonairean Humor

From the Papiamentu language newspaper *èxtra*,

Two guys meet on the street. One of them has a sack on his back. "What do you have in the sack?" the one guy asks. "Chicken" the other answered. "If I tell you how many chickens you have in the sack can I have one?" The other guy says: "If you tell me how many chickens there are in the sack you can have both of them." "OK! You have...5!"

Why did 326 fools drown in the sea? Because the boat's motor stopped and they all got out of the boat to push it.

"How did it go with the machines at the casino, Buchi?"

I had tremendous luck, every time I put in the money, I immediately won. So I stayed a long time. The problem is now I don't know what to do with all these cans of Coca Cola."

How does a fool purify water? He lets it fall from the fifth floor so he kills all the bacteria.


A couple of friends were walking on the street. One says to the other: Look at that beautiful woman there, there was a time they would all run after me. The other says: Seriously? Why don't they do it anymore? Because I no longer steal their purses."

A goofy guy was passing in front of a showcase and saw himself in the mirror. It left him thinking all day: "Where do I know that guy from that I saw in that mirror?" All night when he was in bed he kept thinking about that guy until he realized who it was. "Now I remember, he's the same guy that was standing in front of me in the mirror where I get my hair cut."

A long time ago there were only two people that could help when you needed to move. Buchi and his brother Bores. One day Buchi was carrying a very heavy wardrobe on his back. Just then a person stopped next to him and asked him: "Your brother is not helping you?" Buchi said: "Of course he is, he's inside the wardrobe holding the clothes so they don't get mixed up."


A crazy guy damaged his car badly. When he saw where he damaged it he decided if he blew through the muffler he could blow all the dents back in place. As he started to blow through the muffler another crazy guy passes buy and tells him: You're crazy. You won't be able to blow the dents out, silly, your windows are down! ■
Translated by Jane Madden Disko





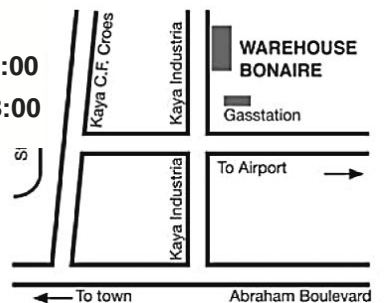
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The Grinch that stole Christmas..... WEB!

Dear Editor:

We've always looked forward to taking a ride on holiday evenings to enjoy the festive outdoor Christmas decorations in and around town. 'Twas the season to be jolly, and we set out the other night to view an array of brilliant Christmas lights and lift our spirits.

But this year, we were astonished at the lack of Christmas lighting in general. There were no oohs and ahs, we couldn't believe our eyes...so few homes were decorated! It seemed to us that there was definitely a "damper" on Christmas even the shops in town didn't seem to have their heart in it. By the time we reached home, instead of having lifted our spirits, we felt rather let down.

It takes a lot of electricity to really light up a house big time. Seems we just can't afford it anymore. The Grinch has definitely stolen Christmas in Bonaire.

Now how sad is that?

Christie Dovale

THANKS FOR THE PUZZLE

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank you for running Genady's coral puzzle series. I have been diving in Bonaire in 2012 and 2011 and dove with Genady on both trips. As a wildlife biologist myself I believe it is important for scientists to share their scientific inquiries with the public. Genady has done so in a clever fashion introducing his observations and results in a puzzle fashion, as well as including commentary from readers around the world, over a series of at least 8 articles. Thanks very much and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from snowy Canada!

*Andrew de Vries
Ottawa, Canada*

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROGRESSIVE COUNTRIES AND BONAIRE

Dear Editor:

Iceland decided to attract tourism and expand their economy, so created their own airline hub with cheap flights between North America and Europe, plus free stopovers to spend some nights in the country, where all kinds of tourists would normally not otherwise go. It worked.

Panama for another example needed to attract tourism, business and expand their economy and way of life for their people, so they expanded the airport. It worked.

Bonaire on the other hand adds paid parking to the airport when it was free before, and ups the departure taxes .

Good move, *****.

Famous Captain

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STILL BEHIND THE TIMES

Dear Editor:

Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me! We need to add a third instance of clients being fooled when it come the Bonaire Chamber of Commerce. Hopefully you have read Don't Stop the Carnival, by Herman Wouk. If not and you live here, have a business or need to deal with some of the bureaucracy it is well worth reading.

I will try explaining the circumstances that prompted me to write this missive: My friend owns a small resort here (7 apartments) and when he bought them he was obliged to register the business with the Bonaire Chamber of Commerce. This Dec. he needed to have a printout from the Chamber of proof of his legitimacy for a new service he needed. Being made aware of the need for the document I called the Chamber to find out how fast I could obtain the paper and was told that the annual fees had not been paid for quite some time (4 or 5 years if I am not mistaken). Come to find out, incredibly they do not send bills. In this day and age of computers and direct deposit, I imagine that the Chamber has a vault full of stone tablets that the records are kept on and the unpaid dues notices will be still available for viewing into the next millennium! For an agency that operates on a budget, you would think they would want to collect as much money for running their offices. Needless to say he went and paid in full as well as \$15 for his proof of registry.

That really was an eye opener for my friend (I had already experienced a similar fiasco myself a few months ago.) He was told that the office would call in a few days and he could pick up the papers. Receiving no call, he personally appeared and was told to come back. Two days passed and he returned only to be told that there were additional papers that needed to be signed (why he was not told this when paid his fees the week before or someone could have called is beyond comprehension). It was the end of the



week and too late to do anything about procuring the needed document. To make matters worse, my friend had to leave. Luckily I have the papers and will complete the process and also take care of what needs to be done to take care of submitting the proof needed to procure his new service

I was under the impression that a new director would make changes and streamline procedures. The status quo of business as usual is totally unacceptable. A Chamber of Commerce should be a vibrant beacon attracting businesses and clean industry to help us grow and fulfill our mission. They should offer service on demand. With computerized records there is no good reason you need to wait and beg for days to get a document. The ridiculous system of collecting bills by telepathy has to stop! Just because it was the way it was always done is also simply unacceptable!

I am given to understand that there will be two openings on the Chamber Board. Perhaps we need to be judicious about who they choose. We need modern thinkers who do not have personal agendas as do some of the present members. Organizations such as CARI-COM, The World Bank and the UN should be approached and perhaps we can learn how a proper Chamber of Commerce should be run. I have paid dues for over 10 years and NEVER have been informed of any plan, project or educational effort they have initiated.

Mike Gaynor

UNFAIR FINE

Dear Editor:

We were told that, the case where a kunuku owner with the proper permit for a rifle to protect his goats and animals was called in by the prosecutor and told he has a choice.

To pay \$1000. For shooting the dog that was caught in the act of attacking his animals on his property, as well as going after a worker that tried to stop him...

The Dutch prosecutor: Told the owner that he had the choice of paying \$1000. For the dog and have one year probation or she will send the case to the court..

They say when the prosecutor was asked about the investigation she said the Dutch owner stated the dog was calm and cost them \$1000. And she has 2 letters from people that the dog was a calm dog.

I am told the investigation did not include going to see where the dog was shot, It did not include contacting the local Kunuku owner, it did not include questioning the local person that was attacked by the dog, even though the incident was documented and stamped copy is in the police files.

It did not include having the Dutch dog owners held accountable for not keeping their dog in there yard or on a leash when out walking. Also we did not receive information on the Dog owner being held responsible for the payment of the goat it killed on days before.

I believe the Bonaire government and the official that is in charge of the BES Islands should check to see if the above is valid. Also to see if this is not an act of Colonialisms...

We can only hope we on Bonaire are not falling victim to unfair restraints from Holland.

Concerned Party



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Chirino Clinic at 25

Twenty-five years is a lifetime and patients who believe in oral and dental care made it possible for dentist Percy Chirino to fulfill that lifetime. That is what Dr. Chirino said in looking back on 25 years of service by his FCA Chirino Memorial Dental Clinic on Kaya Korona. "During these 25 years one could observe a progress among patients and other people who used our up-to-date dental service, while one can also see that more and more people are serious about their dental health." he added. ■



Dr. Chirino (circled) and his team have Deputy Serafilia in the dentist's chair

Press release

Flotsam and Jetsam (from page #) hours once a week, but was reachable by telephone. Very sick children were flown to Curaçao or Aruba. This is no longer necessary since now there are several nurses specialized in pediatrics who can be admitted to the hospital's "Sentebibu" special care department.

► **The first of the new street lights were installed** near the TCB office on Kaya Grandi in Playa on January 4. It won't be much longer before all the aging and corroded



streetlights downtown will be replaced by the corrosion and vandal resistant models according to a government spokesman. The lights were provided by **Bonaire's leading electrical supply company, Hites NV.**

► **"Holidayed" out? Feeling stiff? Exercised too much?** Get relief with a top notch massage or a facial from Elizabeth de Groot at Flamingo Services in the Bon Bida Spa building on the northern hotel row at Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 74. For an appointment call 785-0006 or 717-2972. She has vast experience in a variety of techniques.

► **Bike riding** around Bonaire is really wonderful in the cooler weather this time of year. If you want to try out the newest ride in bicycling technology visit **De Freeweiler bike shop at Kaya Grandi #61**, in the blue building. Call 717-8545 for information or Email: freewieler@bonairefreewieler.com or Web: www.bonairefreewieler.com

► **All of us here at The Reporter want all our readers to have their happiest new year yet.** ■ G./L. D.

Bonaire's "first baby" of the new year are twins! The Alberto babies were born on 1 January at 16.53 and 16.55. They were a healthy 2390 and 2120 grams (5 pounds, 4 ounces and 4 pounds 11 ounces). The proud parents are Gwioviara Alberto and Evandre Chirino. They were showered with gifts by MCB bank's Lito the Lion.

In the photo → are MCB's Lito, proud parents Gwioviara Alberto and Evandre Chirino, midwife Lydia Lont, Ingrid Fenies of MCB Bonaire, and nurses Zr. Jeama Emerenciana and Zr. Suzy Bernabela. Congratulations to the beautiful couple and their beautiful twins. ■ Press release



First Babies

On Sunday, December 16th, Santa arrived at the Rose Inn in Rincon for his annual Christmas visit. Santa loves to come to the island of Bonaire in order to warm up and relax before he has to get ready for the busy week ahead. When he visits he swaps his sleigh and reindeer (It's too hot for reindeer anyway) for a motorcycle so he can enjoy Bonaire's sunshine and deliver some presents to the kids of Rincon. This year was no exception with over 50 children coming to see Santa's bike and get their picture taken with the Jolly old fellow. After posing for pictures, each child got to choose a toy from Santa's collection. Santa brought a great selection of toys, everything from basketballs and soccer balls to squirt guns and even art kits for Rincon's young artists.



Santa Visit

We want to offer a special thanks for Santa and Mrs. Claus for taking time from their busy schedule at the North Pole to come and bring some holiday cheer to Bonaire. Merry Christmas and Bon Pasku to all! ■ *The Big Elf*

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MONTHLY Goatcheese recipe Fresh and healthy

Goatcheese salad with red beet and almonds

Appetizer serves 4

Ingredients:

Goatcheese Semper Kontentu	200 gr
Red beets (fresh or canned)	400 gr
Apples	2 x
White onion (small)	1 x
Balsamic vinegar	100 ml
Sugar	50 gr
Crema fraiche	5 soup spoons
Whole almonds	50 gr

How to prepare:

Cook the whole beet in water with some salt for about an hour. Dice apples and onion in small cubes. Peel the beets and dice them in to one inch cubes. Mix beetcubes, apple, onion and crema fraiche. To prepare the syrup, mix sugar and vinegar in a small pan. Bring it to boil and simmer low for five minutes. Serve in a bowl and add some salt and pepper to flavour. Top the salad with goatcheese and almonds. Decorate with fresh basil and balsamic syrup. Enjoy the taste of this fresh salad and the love and care of Alletta's Semper Kontentu goatcheese.

Recipe by Rik de Hek, food design student and former chef at Salsa Restaurant.

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Pet of the Week



Yuki

Doesn't this alert young pup, "Yuki," look like one of those interesting Australian dogs with her stand up ears and eager look? She's about a year old and comes from Rincon where her previous owner had too many dogs to care for. Luckily Yuki ended up at the Shelter where she has shown her sweet and very laid back personality. She looks straight into your eyes as if to say, "what can I do for you now?" Yuki has a soft brindle colored coat, fawn interspersed with dark gray fur.

Yuki has been checked out by the vet, been sterilized and given her shots and worming. She's healthy as can be and is ready to go to an appreciative owner. You may see Yuki and the other healthy and social cats and dogs up for adoption at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm, 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Website: WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com. ■ L.D.

SHELTER NEWS



Inserting the chip

Free Chip for Your Dog or Cat

Does your pet have a "chip?" It's a way to identify your pet if it's lost. The number goes into a data bank with your name and contact number. The Shelter is now offering to "chip" your dog or cat for free. Just call them at 717-4989 to make an appointment. It's painless and takes just 10 to 20 seconds. Thank you again, Bonaire Animal Shelter, for all the services you provide for the pet community.

Volunteers Needed for the Shelter stand at the Cruise Ship Market

Want to have some fun and meet interesting people while helping out the Animal Shelter? Then give the Shelter a call at 717-4989 and offer to volunteer at the Shelter stand that's set up for the Cruise Ship Markets in Wilhelmina Park. You have a choice of working mornings or afternoons. The booth has all sorts of things for sale: Shelter T-shirts, birthday calendars, Bonaire license

Found Dog



At this time of year, primarily because of the fireworks, dogs and cats are running away, terrified and confused by the loud noises and bright lights. The Animal Shelter has been acting as a Lost and Found Pet Headquarters. So if you have lost a pet or found one please get in touch with the Shelter at 717-4989 and give a description of the animal and they will keep a lookout either for the owner or for the pet. The animals will be kept for a certain length of time, checked out by the vet and if they're healthy and social, be put up for adoption.

This New Years Eve this adorable black and white female pup (above) was found "running scared" down a remote back road in the Bolivia area on New Years' Eve, frightened by the booming fireworks. She's relatively small, about 6-7 kg (13-15 lbs.), intelligent, social and housebroken. If she's yours you will find her waiting for you at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on Lagoen Road. Be prepared to prove she is truly your dog with a veterinary record, photo or other proof. Bring your own ID too. ■ L.D.

plates, other odds and ends and crafty things. You may even find things there that you want as well!

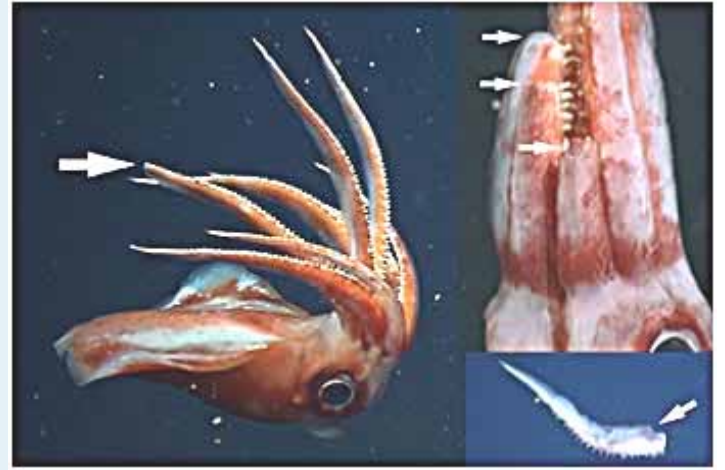
Old License Plates Needed

One of the best selling items at the Cruise Ship Market are old Bonaire license plates. And of course all the money goes to help keep the Shelter open for unwanted cats and dogs. What a perfect way to re-cycle! ■

Laura DeSalvo

DID YOU KNOW?

That some squids can detach their arms as a defensive tactic! A recent study observed this new defensive strategy in a species of deep sea squid, *Octopoteuthis deletron*. When being attacked these squids grip into the predator, then swim away



quickly leaving their arm hooked on the predator! This distracts the predator, so the squid can easily escape. This strategy is called autotomy, and this species is the first known squid to use this defense. The squid tips also have a bioluminescent capability, which means through chemical reactions the organism is able to give off light. When they are detached they continue to glow and twitch, making a speedy getaway even easier when the predator is distracted. The arm can thrash for up to an hour after it is separated! The squids can regrow their arms after they are detached which is a costly process but is better than being dinner for a predator. Amazing

behaviors of underwater creatures continue to be discovered. ■ Story by Emily Duwan; Photos by Stephanie Bush

Duwan is a Biology major from Villanova University. She is spending her fall semester studying abroad at the CIEE Research Station in Bonaire.



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2013 MAJOR ASTRONOMICAL EVENT FORECAST

April 21, 22 - Lyrids Meteor Shower. The Lyrids are an average shower, usually producing about 20 meteors per hour at their peak. These meteors can produce bright dust trails that last for several seconds. The shower usually peaks on April 21 & 22.

April 28 - Saturn at Opposition. The ringed planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. This is the best time to view and photograph Saturn and its moons.

May 5, 6 - Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower. The Eta Aquarids are a light shower, usually producing about 10 meteors per hour at their peak.

May 28 - Conjunction of Venus and Jupiter. The two bright planets will be within 1 degree of each other in the evening sky. The planet Mercury will also be visible nearby. Look to the west near sunset.

May 25 - Penumbral Lunar Eclipse. The eclipse will be visible throughout most of North America, South America, Western Europe and western Africa.

August 12, 13 - Perseids Meteor Shower. The Perseids is one of the best meteor showers to observe, producing up to 60 meteors per hour at their peak. The shower's peak usually occurs on August 13 & 14, but you may be able to see some meteors any time from July 23 - August 22. The radiant point for this shower will be in the constellation Perseus.

August 27 - Neptune at Opposition. The blue planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. This is the best time to view Neptune. Due to its distance, it will only appear as a tiny blue dot in all but the most powerful telescopes.

October 21, 22 - Orionids Meteor Shower. The Orionids is an average shower producing about 20 meteors per hour at their peak. This shower usually peaks on the 21st, but it is highly irregular. A good show could



be experienced on any morning from October 20 - 24, and some meteors may be seen any time from October 17 - 25.

November 17, 18 - Leonids Meteor Shower. The Leonids is one of the better meteor showers to observe, producing an average of 40 meteors per hour at their peak. The shower itself has a cyclic peak year every 33 years where hundreds of meteors can be seen each hour. The last of these occurred in 2001. This could still be a good show. Look for the shower radiating from the constellation Leo after midnight.

December 13, 15 - Geminids Meteor Shower. Considered by many to be the best meteor shower in the heavens, the Geminids is known for producing up to 60 multicolored meteors per hour at their peak.

Christmastime- The newly discovered comet C/2012 S1 (ISON) appears to be heading on a trajectory that could make for one of the most spectacular night-sky events in living memory. A close approach to the Sun will melt enormous amounts of the comet's ice, releasing dust and gas and forming what should be a magnificent tail. After it loops around the Sun and forms this tail, the comet should then pass relatively close to Earth—not near enough to cause any worry, but close enough to put on a great show. Viewers in the Northern Hemisphere will get the best view as the comet blooms in the weeks approaching Christmas 2013. **The comet could grow as bright as the full moon.**

Of course, comets have a habit of not living up to expectations, so we shall have to wait a year to find out. ■ *Lyn Baker/*



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
January 2013

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Winter has given you the urge to clean house when it comes to work. However, don't let your temper get the best of you this month. Remain calm and think about what's best for your future before making any rash decisions. Seek advice from a close friend or relative if you're not sure what to do.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Don't go against your nature this month. A loved one helps you realize what you want when it comes to your personal life. So, go out and get it. Don't let others stand in your way. However, when it comes to work, it's best to hold back your opinions until you know the whole story.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Your ability to think fast on your feet will come in handy during a social outing this month. Don't let a surprise throw you off guard. Work will keep you busy during the beginning of the month, so you must focus on the task at hand. Your efforts won't go unnoticed. A bonus is on the way.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) A family situation will put you to the test this month. Don't let your emotions get the best of you. Stay strong and use your sense of humor to keep loved ones calm. You'll be riding high when it comes to romance. An evening with a good friend will turn out to be much more.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Your pride may get you into trouble with a co-worker this month. Don't make the situation worse by trying to take control. In your personal life, romantic efforts finally will pay off. That special someone will show you that he or she really cares. Don't rush in too fast. Take your time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You'll have to fight your fear of crowds this month as a meeting at work puts you in the spotlight. Your organization and perfectionism will pull you through with flying colors — and a lot of praise. Don't be too hard on yourself after a fight with a loved one.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Your ability to be a good listener will be needed this month as a close friend goes through a rough time. Your pleasant nature will help get him or her back on track. Don't let a quarrel with your special someone get you down. Your good nature will bring him or her around.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov.23) Your determination puts you in line for top honors in the workplace. The higher-ups finally recognize all the time and effort you put in. Don't be shy when it comes to romance this month. Even though it's against your nature, let your feelings be known. They'll be reciprocated.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Your happy, gregarious nature will be challenged this month as loved ones share a family secret. The news may come as a surprise but don't let your temper flare. Take it in stride. Your optimism pays off when it comes to romance. That special someone finally will make a move.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Now is your chance to get ahead at work. Your boss offers you the opportunity to take a commanding role in the company and you're up to the challenge. Don't let your stubborn side take control when it comes to friends. You'll have a good time, even though you didn't make the plans.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Your sense of realism does well for you in all areas of your life this month. You won't overreact to a surprise at work, making you a pillar of strength for your co-workers. As for your love life, it's time to take the next step in a relationship. Think about it.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't let feelings of self-doubt keep you from reaching a new level of success. Believe in yourself and you can accomplish anything. A realistic look at finances will help you plan for the future. Pay attention to details at work, especially if you deal with numbers. Diet plays a role. ■

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Great family home in quiet residential area close to the sea.



Sabadeco, Crown Court 12

This well built villa offers dramatic views combined with the privacy of a corner lot. Situated on the edge of a cliff, one can enjoy panoramic views over seafront homes to the Caribbean Sea and Klein Bonaire. The spacious living/dining area has a dramatic cathedral ceiling culminating in a cupola (skylight) which brings light in and keeps the area cool. A separate upstairs apartment with its own sun deck ensures privacy for family or visiting guests. The lot is large enough for a pool & sundeck if desired. Lay out: entrance into living room where sliding glass doors provide access to a covered porch with decorative arches framing the sea views. Spacious live in kitchen has a pantry, granite countertops and bar/sliding windows to eating area on porch. Hall to downstairs bedrooms has outside access and an alcove for washer and dryer. Large master bedroom with porch, private marble tiled bathroom, walk-in closet and built-in dressing table and cabinet. Guest bedroom with built-in closet & separate bathroom. Outdoor stairs leading to uncovered terrace with guest apartment with bedroom, kitchenette and private bathroom. Spacious garage (with off street parking) and outdoor shower & rinse facility. Lot size: 15.784 ft² (1.467 m²). Living area: 3,210 ft² (290 m²)



Asking price US\$ 625,000

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