

here was a Big Book Fair at the Bonaire Animal Shelter last Saturday, September 21...... While Kindles and E-books may be the current trend, some people still love to hold a real book in their hands. The Bonaire Animal Shelter sold almost 500 hundred books in just three hours at their used book market on Saturday. Despite the heat, the ambience was great and the Shelter residents are grateful for the community support. 

Jane Madden Disko

uraçao's St. Elisabeth Hospital and government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the building of a new hospital in Otrobanda, Willemstad, adjacent to the old hospital. The financing will be a combination of public funds and private capital. The facility will be operational in 2016, said Curaçao's Prime Minister Ivar Asjes. Bonaire patients are often treated in Curacao. The project is estimated at NAf. 360 million. Half of this amount is meant for construction and half for furnishing and equipment.

► *Hoofdagent van Politie* (police officer) Ronald Schleper told *The Reporter* that several neighborhoods have set up a neighborhood watch system, called "Watch Dog." The neighborhoods are Nikiboko, Belnem and Hato. Contact persons are Nicole Bouten (Nikiboko), Brigitt Keys (Belnem) and Al Catalfumo (Hato). The watch groups are in communication not only within their barrios but with other barrios as well.

Schlelper also says that the police will issue reports on Facebook or for more information go to WWWPolitiecn.com.



► The Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment (Rijkswaterstaat)in The Netherlands has **scheduled a public hearing to** consider the objections to a permit that gives the green light for the construction of a large party pier complex at Karel's Beach Bar (artist's conception above). The surrounding water is part of the Bonaire National Marine Park.

The permit was issued by the Ministry under the Maritime Management Act BES (WET maritiem beheer BES). It is one of three required for the proposed project.

The appeal was filed by STINAPA Bonaire and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire and 162 individuals citing damage to the marine environment and a precedentsetting event that will open the Marine Park to harmful environmental damage.

**Supporters** say is a legitimate business plan with minimum damage to an environment already compromised and devoid of

significant coral.

In Bonaire there will be a local live broadcast of the hearing. The hearing will be broadcast on Bonaire from 9:00 to 10:30 on the morning of Tuesday, October 1, in the conference room at the Office of Immigration and Naturalization downtown.

▶ On 12 September, Karin Kloosterboer of UNICEF the Netherlands held a presentation of the UNICEF report Child on Bonaire: Child rights in The Caribbean



Netherlands (Kind op Bonaire: Kinderrechten in Caribisch Nederland) published in May. Professionals involved with youth were invited and the turnout was great. Approximately 50 people from various organizations working with youngsters (Education, Care, PEB, Guardianship) met together.) Island Governor Dr. Lydia Emerencia and Commissioner **Sylvana Janga-Serfilia** were also present and took actively part in the discus-

Ms Kloosterboer said the situation in the Caribbean Netherlands, on the basis of the report Child on Bonaire, meet none of the minimum standards set in the International Treaty Rights

The Reporter plans a follow-up interview with Ms. Kloosterboer when she returns to

- Thursday, 19 September, was the kickoff for Bonaire's 'Green Economic Model' (GEM). The project is an initiative from WKICS, a Bonaire research bureau, and is supported by the Executive Council of Bonaire, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Bonaire Business & Employers Association, Tourism Corporation Bonaire and Inisiativa Vishon Akshon, and focuses on the transition of Bonaire to a sustainable future.
- Detainees at the Bonaire prison, the JICN, went on a hunger strike again. The foreign inmates of the penitentiary resumed their protest after discontinuing such a few weeks ago. This time they're supported by several Bonaire prisoners. At least 10 prisoners will join the action, said a spokesperson of the group



► Raynold Bernard Joseph. "Nolly" Wilsoe (above left) was sworn is as a member of the Bonaire island Council representing the UPB party. He replaced Eveline Bentacourt Anthony who retired. Wilsoe brings unique credentials to the Council. He's a family man, former Dive instructor at Captain Don's Habitat and a Customs Officer. He was in charge of the "drug dog" in the past. Wilsoe is currently very involved with local sports and particularly youth baseball as manager. Congratulations Nolly.

▶ Pablo "James" Kroon was officially elected as the new UPB (Green) party leader. It was one of the most well-attended such gatherings of the past years. Kroon had been the only candidate nominated for this vacant position.

Reginald "Jonchi" Doralina was once again chosen as chairman by acclamation.. The other board members are **John Leoneta** (93 votes), Stanley Balentien (119), Ronald Coffie (115), Milena Winklaar (118) and faction leader in the Island Council Jeffrey Levenstone (132).

► The European Commission (EC) is no longer sending money for development projects to funds manager "Stichting Ontwikkeling Nederlandse Antillen" (SONA), because it wants to await the outcome of an investigation into alleged irregularities started by the European office to combat fraud (OLAF) last year. As a result, the Dutch Caribbean stands to lose a combined €23 million.

►THE HAGUE--Foundation Step for Bonaire, a group of concerned citizens from Bonaire living in the Netherlands, submitted a petition to the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) last Tuesday. The group wants Parliament to take steps to stop the mismanagement by Bonaire's governing coalition and express support for the island Governor.

►THE HAGUE--Women of Dutch Caribbean and Surinam descent are working more hours than native Dutch women. According to figures released by the Dutch Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) on Wednesday, 75 per cent of the second generation women of Dutch Caribbean and Surinam descent living in the Netherlands have a full-time

job of 35 hours per week or more. That is more than two times higher when compared to European Dutch women of whom 27 per cent have a full-time job.

▶ Joran van der Sloot, still the main suspect in the disappearance without a trace of American teenager Nataly Holloway during a high school graduation trip to Aruba in 2005, may be able to serve out his sentence for murder of Peruvian student Stephany Flores in The Netherlands. Last Thursday the Second Chamber of Parliament approved a treaty with Peru so that Dutchmen convicted in the South American country might serve last part of their sentence in the Netherlands. Flores was murdered in 2010, exactly five years after the disappearance of Holloway.

Last week Curconsult started its **third** perception study on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. The staff of Curconsult will phone the inhabitants of the three islands, with the request to answer a number of questions relating to the areas of health care, security, taxes, education and immigration. Participation in the research takes about five minutes.

The results of the study should answer the and Tanzania, but also Bonaire, where question: 'How do the citizens of Caribbean woman farmer Aletta (43) seeks the love of Netherlands currently feel about the changes her life. Approximately 250,000 people due to the constitutional changes within the Kingdom? ' Like previous years, the results will be published on the RCN website www.rijksdienstcn.com.



On November 16th, 2013 a unique inter island photo exhibition will be opened on Bonaire, and and simultaneously on St. Eustatius and Saba. At this 'CN Expo' 29 unique photos of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba will be exhibited. The photos are to be exhibited by the winners of a photo competition, open to residents of the Caribbean Netherlands. The theme of the photo competition is 'This is the place', in other words 'Dit is dé plek', or 'Esaki ta é *lugá*'. This photo contest wants for young and old residents of the three islands to capture those spots that are special place to them. These can be photos made of places of their island, but also from family, school, work or home. Broad participation is hoped for. Go to https://www.facebook.com/ the.cn.expo

**▶** The popular Dutch television show "Farmer Seeks Wife" has gone international for its seventh season. Presenter Yvon Jaspers travels to Canada, Denmark

have seen the show

► Aletta has closed her Goat Farm for visitors until mid November. The mom goats are getting a break and there will be no goat milk products for a while.

▶ Bonaire's donkeys have been "adopted" for years. Now you can adopt a goat. Introducing the goat adoption project to support Bonaire's environment + farming, curtail roaming goats and support permaculture for Bonaire!.

There are five easy steps to adopt a goat. Go to <a href="http://semperkontentu.wix.com/">http://semperkontentu.wix.com/</a> goatcheese#!page-3

1. choose your goat, 2. mail the name of your goat to receive the adoption form, 3. fill out adoption form + send it back to us, 4. transfer your donation, 5. receive your adoption certificate via mail

► AMSTERDAM--Children at Montessori primary schools perform better than other children in traditional schools, at least in The Netherlands, RTL news reports. It came to this conclusion after studying the results of tests taken by the country's 11 and quitoes. 12 year-olds, the CITO test, in their final year of primary school.

The results help determine what sort of high school they will go to.

RTL said pupils in the 155 Montessori schools in the Netherlands scored an average of 8.1, the 6,100 schools offering traditional education scored an average 7.5, while Free Schools, based on the principles of Rudolf Steiner, scored an average 6.5. Montessori schools offer children more choice in deciding what and when to study in mixed-age groups.

► Half the baby girls and one-third of the baby boys born today will reach the age of 100, according to new calculations by the Dutch demographic institute. The new forecast illustrates just how much life expectancy has risen. Just 1% of the people born 100 years ago are still alive. Girls born today will reach an average age of 96, while boys will average of 92. Statisticians say a child is alive today who will live to 150 years-old.

Currently the world's oldest man is Arturo Licata of Italy at 111, and the oldest woman is Misao Okawa of Japan at 115, according to the Gerontology Research Group, which tracks people 110 and older and validates ages for Guinness.

The greatest authenticated age for any human is 122 years, 164 days by Jeanne Louise Calment of France.

► The wind is moderating an it will seem warmer the next two months. If exercising outdoors is too much, visit the air conditioned Bon Bida Gym. It offers stateof-the-art machines, expert instruction, and consultation. Don't skip your workout while on vacation either. While most members of the gym are local, tourists are welcome. One other benefit of indoor exercise is NO mos-

► New office hours at Bevolking on **Kaya Neerlandia 40.** Open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. non-stop and closed on Fridays.

**Remember** to tell the shops and restaurants you visit to advertise in The Reporter. That keeps it free to readers.

► The Reporter will take a one week extra break for vacation. Look for the next edition on or before October 21. ■

G./L.D.



## On the Island Since

## July 1st, 2005 — Trix van Bennekom

worked as director of public transport in Rotterdam, Holland, and I did that for about ten years. I was director of the Metro the best job you could wish for. because it turned out that I was a real railroad girl; I loved the network of underground tracks that would take you anywhere. I was responsible for 50 stations,

600 employees and we transported 300.000 people per day – only with the Metro. Later on I also became the director of tram and bus and during my last year I had 2000 employees under me. I worked 24 hours per day, seven days a week. My husband and my (step)children were supportive of me in every way, but now and then I would think 'Is this what I want to do forever..?' I talked to my spouse who is very down to earth and he told me: 'you cannot make a life-changing move from one day to another – first you have to do something for it!'

My idea was to become a journalist; a correspondent who would live abroad and who would write about it for the Dutch media – to look at another society with the eye of an observer and to write about it. She smiles 'I am the daughter of a Neerlandicus – my father got a Master's degree in Dutch language and literature.

So, my spouse and I discussed the matter – at the time he was working for the mayor of Rotterdam, Mr. Opstelten, on the issue of the drug addicts – and we set a date: June 1st, 2005. At work I announced my plans and in the mean time I got an 'internship' at a Rotterdam newspaper. So then the question arose as where course of events - it was great! we were going to go to... Although I'd written a lot in my life, I didn't have a journalistic background and because I was have plenty of work! It has made my life going to work free lance I had to look for the right area – an area where the Dutch media would be interested in.

The majority of the Antilleans who live in Holland live in Rotterdam and we had a lot of problems with them. When Dutch people go for a vacation to, let's say, Curacao, they love the Antillean people, while at home in Holland they have a far more negative opinion about them. I was interested; where do these people come from and why is it that their Dutch is so bad, because... after all, they do come from the Netherland's Antilles! From when I was young I was a fanatic reader and especially fascinated by stories about colonial areas, however, in Holland we didn't learn anything about the Antilles.

When I came to live here, I had to start all over again - it was an adventure! First thing I did was to learn Papiamentu, because as a journalist you are socially





Trix at her computer

handicapped when you work here and you and it's fun to learn to understand and don't speak Papiamentu. I had to get out and look for news and – let me tell you - it how I am – curious for the world around didn't make one bit of a difference that I'd been a top official once. I had to write good articles and stories, get to know people and try to sell my articles. I was the correspondent for the Antilles for the Associated Press and Radio Netherlands Worldwide (both of them don't exist anymore), but what I enjoyed most was writing for Elsevier, a weekly news magazine. I became their correspondent for all six islands in 2006 and that's what I'm still

then to inform others. That's very much me and I love to report what I find out.

When I came to Bonaire, I was touched by its authentic atmosphere. Twice I took a course about history and culture with Boi Antoin and I'm reading all the local Papiamentu papers and I listen to the local radio. These 82 square kilometers is the great, big world in miniature. It's not a sleepy village, not paradise – it's a very interesting island and I am studying the Bonairean society as an observer, an anthropologist. You see an island that

article is a sprint, but a book is a marathon! Originally I am a geographer and I look at the island with the eyes of an anthropologist; that occurred to me when I was writing the book. When the book was presented on October 10th, 2012, in Rotterdam, I saw many of my old colleagues from the Metro and at night, when I walked to the hotel together with my spouse, I realized that for the first time in my whole career I had done something all by myself... I wrote a book; it was a dream come true! The second print is there, it's mandatory for officials to read and because of the book I have a readership now; people who I really love.

Because a follow-up was expected soon after, I started my blog and I notice that the information I give is highly appreciated by a large audience and I'm trying to do it every week. Through Facebook I keep everybody informed almost daily; I always try to get the facts out in the open and to give background information about the news. I could use those subjects for a new book, but I am fascinated by the social media. Especially here they are very important to inform people immediately. If you want to grow as a society you need people who dare to express their opinions, and I think Bonaire is slowly growing towards that direction. It's a very good development, because the authorities will realize that people are interested in what's journalist, an observer, and I am not going going on and that they want to contribute to new developments. I hope this will happen; I am very positive about it. Well, the latest thing I did is, together with Claudia Tellegen, a Dutch film maker, I made a TV-series of four episodes for the Dutch television on the occasion of 'three years after 10-10-10'. It's about educawhom this island has been the navel of the tion, healthcare, safety and durability. The program is called 'Altijd wat' and the first Nederland 2, but also on BVN. It was fun,

> that opened up to me and I hope people will like it too."■ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra

another new world

## "If you want to grow as a society you need people who dare to express their opinions, and I think Bonaire is slowly growing towards that direction."

I've been very lucky with the constitutional process; I was there at the right time to witness and report the whole

Nowadays there is a lot of cutting down on correspondents, nevertheless... I still more colorful than I ever would have hoped for and I get very happy sitting behind my computer and writing!

I'm living here for eight years now and although I don't have any real hobbies except for reading and swimming, I am never bored; I am always short of time. I see myself as an investigative journalist, a detective. I am a very curious person; all my life I've been interested in what's going on around me and I use all my senses and I see everything. In 2007 I was asked by Stinapa to write some columns for their campaign 'Nos ta biba di Naturalesa' and I got four subjects: caves, bats, reforestation and nature as green engine for the economy. I thought 'My God, what am I going do with these subjects!' I didn't know anything about it; when I saw something flying at night I thought it was birds! But... that's how your job takes you to all kinds of places

changed in an incredible way - it made a unique step; because never before in history a previous colony became part of the motherland. It has put great pressure on the Bonairean community and in addition Dutch people now think this is Holland and they behave like this is their island. I don't react to that because I am here as a to discuss it, but I do ask those people questions how come they think like they're thinking...

I am really involved in Bonaire; I speak the language very well and I am most interested in the culture and history but also in the people who live here and for world for centuries. But... I am always on the outside looking in -I am the observer. episode will be shown on October 3d on I am impartial and I find integrity very important and always I look at Bonaire with the eyes of an outsider. I like it here a lot, but with Elsevier I learned to look with a cool eye at the Bonairean society and I feel comfortable with that.

Well, something all foreign correspondents are coping with is a lack of interest for their articles and so I thought 'I am going to write a book'. Well, to write an

TOURISM HISTORY PART 16- Hugo Gerharts,

Part 1: Hugo Gerharts, Entrepreneur and **Ardent Promoter Of His Island** 

e was known by some as "The Rockefeller of Bonaire" because of the many companies he ran. And he is still involved in Bonaire today, but in a more humble way.

Hugo Gerharts was born in 1931. At the age of 10, his father, L.D. Gerharts, sent him to boarding school in Jamaica, Munro College. There he learned English (second in his class) and learned to play tennis, in which he excelled. He became champion several times, winning the coveted

Copa Vene-

zuela in



Hugo, 18 years old, winner of the Copa Venezuela for the first time in 1949.

Curação six consecutive times, from 1949 till 1955. He represented his country abroad, at Pan American & Caribbean Olympic Games. In 1949, at the age of 18, he graduated and returned to his island. But his father preferred to let him gain some experience working in Curação where he got a job at KLM. He worked for that company until 1956, when his father called him back to Bonaire to work in the family business. In spite of his education and position in the family, his father had him start at the bottom of the company, in the warehouse, unpacking and pricing cans. The Handelmij Company represented KLM, that is to say, the Caribbean branch of the airline, on Bonaire. The Gerharts' company not only represented KLM, it practically ran the entire airport which included airplane handling and services to the public.

Hugo Gerharts' first involvement in Bonaire's tourism was when his father called his son who was working in Curacao to come over for some days to be a guide to travel agents visiting the island. He also served a short time as manager of his father's Zeebad Hotel. That was in the fifties. Initially, the hotel had 14 bungalows. The tourists that came in those years would now be called eco-tourists: people interested in nature, particularly the underwater part. Gerharts sponsored the Don Stewart project to start operating a scuba diving business at Bonaire Beach Hotel, the former Hotel Bonaire: Aquaventure. Gerharts is one of the co-founders and honorary president of the Turtle Club.

As representative of both KLM and

ALM, Gerharts constantly lobbied during tourist conferences and conventions to get more airlines to include Bonaire in their schedule. He was successful in getting ALM to fly up to 9 times daily from Curaçao to Bonaire, also three times weekly non-stop from Miami and even two times weekly from Atlanta, a major hub. Flights were well booked. Tourists from Venezuela were also interested in coming to Bonaire but most flights had to go via Curação, which meant a lot of hassle and loss of time waiting for a connection.

To develop the entertainment options of Bonaire, Gerharts opened the first discotheque on the island (E Wowo) and a modern cinema, named Carib. E Wowo was the first discotheque in the Caribbean, opened in 1969 by Prime Minister Petronia of the Netherlands Antilles. It was very popular in the seventies and eighties and brought much needed night life to the island for locals and visitors.

To accommodate the growing number of tourists, Gerharts began a car rental company, called Boncar. He started with 5 cars and soon expanded the number to 20. Later he represented Budget Car Rental with almost 150 cars.

Early on, Gerharts rented out houses in and around Kralendijk to tourists. They were known as 'Bonaire Sunset Villas'.

In the course of the years, the Gerharts Holding grew to 21 companies, employing 345 employees. Besides the enterprises mentioned above, it also included a travel agency, a sightseeing tour agency, a car dealer and leasing company (Ford, Lincoln), a car service center, a wholesale business (Heineken, Nutricia and many more), a shipping company and an offshore crude oil trading company. Their payroll amounted to about 8 million guilders annually. They were second only to the Government as a mega- employer in Bonaire.

Gerharts also contributed to the promotion of Bonaire when he and the late Niki Tromp from the Tourist Office went to a conference of the American Society of Travel Agents in Toronto. He had 5,000 stickers made saying 'With love from Bonaire'. They did not have a booth but they went about sticking them on people's shirts and jackets, thus making quite an impact. Since he believed in the importance of tourism for his island and since the tourist office did not have any budget available, Gerharts spent large amounts from his own business to promote Bonaire. There have been years when he spent more than a million dollars of his own money, not counting travel expenses. As President of the Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association (BONHATA) and as member of the board of the Caribbean Hotel Association, he traveled a lot and always paid the tickets himself.

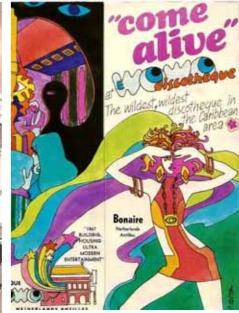
Just like he was active trying to get more airlift to the island, he also did the same for cruise tourism. A delegation consisting of Ltd Governor Morkos, Niki Tromp from the Tourist Office and Hugo Gerharts went to New York to talk to the Norwegian American Lines, which resulted in the first arrival of a large cruise ship in Bonaire: the Bergensfjord. At that occasion, Gerharts rented a small plane to



Bonaire's first discotheque, E Wowo (The Eye)



Hugo with wife Irene, kids Jennifer and Debbie opening Centro Supermar-



E Wowo brochure

take pictures from the air, to use for promotion purposes. He would continue to do so with all other cruise ships, using the pictures to convince other cruise lines to come to Bonaire.

When the Gulf War broke out in 1990, and it was to be expected that tourism to the Middle East would come to a halt, Hugo Gerharts succeeded in convincing the KLM top brass to add a new tourist destination to their schedule and start flying directly to Bonaire, using the island later as a hub on route to South America. In April of 1991 the first KLM DC-10 was welcomed on the

airport. Evert Bongers

(Still to come: Part 2: Gerharts and Hotel Bonaire)



## **Picture Yourself** With The Reporter In Hilvarenbeek The Netherlands..

enny and Anneke Goud, 70 and 65 years-old respectively, have been coming to Bonaire for 20 years, usually 6 months at a time This photo was taken in their summer residence at Beekse Ber gen near Hilvarenbeek in the Netherlands.



WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of The Bonaire Reporter with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN A PRIZE. Mail photos to Bonaire Reporter, Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. E-mail to: info@bonairereporter.com



# rprising Concert at Spice Yuri Honing and his band in concert at Spice

R ecently Yuri Honing and his band returned from a tour through Colombia and Latin America. On Saturday, September 1, the band performed at Spice Beach Club. The band has four musicians: Joost Lijbaart (drums), Mark Haanstra (bass guitar), Stef van Es (guitar) and Yuri Honing, leader of the band with his saxophone. The music was announced as "jazz

But I was reallly surprised by the sound, the fullness and the energy. This was a fantastic, inspiring, surprising and sometimes even shocking performance but this was not the jazz the audience was used to hearing

Time for an interview.

Sunday, around mid-day. Nobody knows where Yuri (Edison winner 2002) is. Finally I find him on a beach couch. Ear phones plugged in, apparently he is listening to music. After a minute we sip on a Pinot Grigio and an Amstel Bright at the lady for a pen and something to write on.

Yuri explains: "No, this is not really jazz music. It might be inspired by jazz but in fact it is Yuri-Music (Sometimes inspired on Bjork-Music/jb).

All pieces are written by me. I have a classical background. I grew up in a family of musicians. In the beginning I played the piano but at the age of 14 I switched to the saxophone. Inspiration for writing my music I get from fashion and fashion houses. It is the colors, the material, and the ideas behind the composing that inspires me.

Making music is an art but also hard work. We just returned from Colombia and now I really am enjoying my stop over on Bonaire. (Yuri is on Bonaire for the fifth time/jb) When I get back to Holland I will be very busy with the last preparations for my tour through Asia. All concerts in Japan are already sold out!"

Yuri-Music is of a very high and inspiring level. If you want to listen again to the music of this guy and his musicians or if you want to find out what you have missed, just go to: www.yurihoning.com or find Spice bar and as a real reporter I ask the bar him on YouTube. 

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer

## **STCB Removes MORE Fishing**



Volunteers who recovered fishing line under South Pier aboard the Freewinds

Bonaire/Playa -

n Sunday September 8th a bunch of experienced volunteers came together at the Dive Friends Dive Inn to receive information and instructions about the result was miles and miles of fishing line, a recovery of fishing line. The Fishing Line Project is one of the many activities of the STCB. Every second Sunday of the month a recovery dive is held. This time STCB volunteer Richard Willis informed the volunteers about the importance of a clean sea and the removal of, especially, new fishing line as turtles and other sea creatures can be trapped by the lines. For turtles the result might be death as they have lungs and have to reach the surface every now and then.

STCB got permission from the harbor master and the captain of the Freewinds who promised not to start his engines to move the propellers. Over t20 divers and two young Dutch snorkelers, Japer and Lianne, jumped into the water to find their way in the direction of the South Pier. For

some divers it was a new experience to dive in the shade of a huge vessel instead of in the shine of the sun. After the nodecompression-needed, one-hour dive the lot of reusable lead, a pair of sun glasses and a fishing rod.

The photograph was taken by the Freewinds photographer. On the far left: Freewinds Harbor captain, on the right: the snorkelers: Jasper and Elaine.

After the dive there were some refreshments and the brave volunteers enjoyed a nice lunch on board the Freewinds. Free air

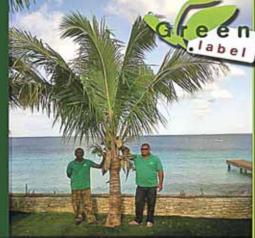
and fresh water to rinse the gear was supplied by Dive Friends Bonaire. Thank you Dive Friends, thank you Freewinds, thank you harbormaster. Together we can do it!■ Jan Brouwer





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From Bonaire Nautico Marina in front of It Rains Fishes Restaurant

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Word on the Street

ord is that the resort/restaurant on the east coast of Bonaire that is currently closed due to renovation may reopen as a "naturist" resort.

- ♦ The new storm water runoff system that recently closed Kaya Grandi to traffic is complete. The project is intended to alleviate the continual flooding of Kaya Grandi and adjacent streets whenever there is a major rainstorm. An eyewitness reports that the system is functional and now drains all the rain water runoff directly into the sea... along with all the plastic, cigarette butts, paper and assorted trash that is also on the streets. Meanwhile, in the same week, island officials proudly announced their new initiative to assure that Bonaire will have a "green" sustainable economy, preserving our natural environment. What? Seems that cleaning the streets more frequently might help
- ♦ On Tuesday September 17<sup>th</sup> at around 16.30, contractors hit an underground gasoline line near the Curoil storage tanks in Hato. Reportedly the fuel was in the process of being delivered from the supply barge at the time. As a result, there was a traffic diversion during the cleanup and gasoline-saturated soil was dug up and transported to the landfill. Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot was closed in both directions for public safety. A fire department truck was on the scene almost continuously. In the words of a WEB employee two days into the problem: "E ta hopi peligroso!" (It is very dangerous!) The street reopened on Thursday.



- ◆ According to the Dutch website <a href="https://www.bonaire.nu">www.bonaire.nu</a> there's a **new business** <a href="https://www.bonaire.nu">now open selling fresh fish (barracuda, snapper, tuna, etc.), local herbs, fruits and vegetables. Called Zarpin LVV Paradijs, it is located on Kaya Nikiboko South on the right side of the street shortly before the baseball park. Hours are 8:30 to 12:30 and 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. **Do any of our readers shop there?**
- ♦ Following a breaking news story the Dutch-language newspaper Antilliaans Dagblad reports that Burney El Hage, currently Deputy of Economic Affairs, will leave Bonaire politics in 2015 after 17 years of political involvement. His resignation comes in consult with his party (UPB) and the coalition. No exact date of his retirement was given.
- ♦ Word on the street is that the current island government and the Netherlands government have agreed that for Bonaire to contribute to its own support and lessen the financial burden on Holland it needs to start selling off the "domain land" to private investors. Sources are referring to this as "selling the crown jewels".... A

court case possibly related to this is pending.

- ♦ Don't get too excited, but seems possible that the **Dutch HEMA corporation may open a "Target-type"** chain-store on Bonaire! Woo-hoo! (a Target-type store includes a supermarket and bakery). Perhaps it will be located in the Warehouse-Leen Bakker area.
- ♦ Insiders are reporting changes in corporate management coming to the van den Tweel conglomerate; rumors of new characters in a partial buy-in to Gerard van den Tweel's Caribbean enterprises (including Bonaire).
- ◆ James Finies, President of the foundation *Nos Kier Boneiru Bek* (We Want Bonaire Back), has sent a letter to the Is-

land Council asking them to consider a course of action to put Bonaire on the list of non-self-governing territories of the United Nations. This year the UN agreed to do this for French Polynesia. According to Finies the effect and results on Bonaire of the 10/10/10 agreement with Holland meet all the criteria the U.N. requires for that status. The result of being on the NSGT list would be that Bonaire would not stand alone but would have U.N. support if Holland threatened to pull the plug on finances or other support due to lack of Bonaire's compliance with Holland's requirements.

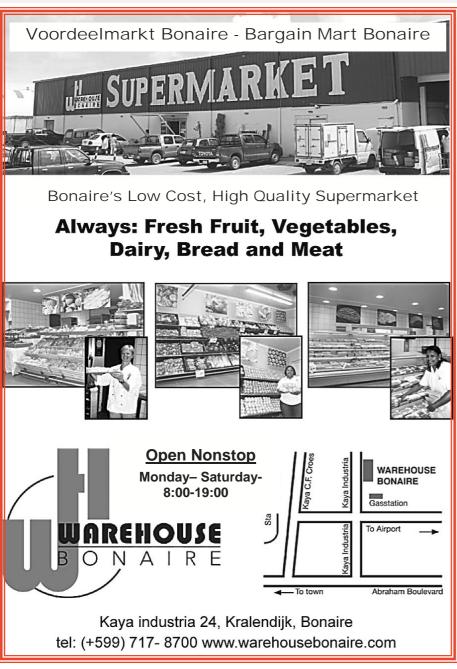
If you have any items for Word On The Street, please call or send it to *The Reporter*. ■ Sra. Bula Bonchi

## Thanks To You

Bonaire Reporter
Dive Friends Bonaire
Paradise Moon Restaurant
Rob Laurant of Paradise Rentals (REMAX)
Villa Onima (Lou and Kim Vallario)

#### Dave and Jessica Lorah

... Top bidders in a silent auction for a one week Bonaire vacation that benefited the **River Bridge Regional Center** in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. The Center provides services to assist children that have been assaulted and/or sexually abused. All the proceeds from the auction went to benefit River Bridge ....





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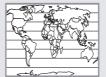
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Stichting Jeugdwerk Jong Bonaire today announced the election of two new members of its Bestuur (Board): Macha le Poole and Jan Henk van der Wier. These additions are part of a long-term plan to bring in new members and new perspectives in order to help continue the aire Sailing Association and the Bonaire success of the organization.

Macha le Poole is currently the General Legal Counsel of Fundashon Mariadal. She was born in the Dutch Antilles and has lived on Bonaire since 2007. Ms. le Poole received her law de-

gree from the University of Amsterdam. She and her husband Lex have two children. Jan Henk van der Wier is Managing Director of Sunbelt Realty since 2000. Mr. van der Wier has been active in many local NGOs and has been penningmeester of the bibliotheek, the Bon-Jazz Festival. He is married to his business partner, Corine van der Hout.

As another part of the bestuur's plan, Alex Senchi who has been instrumental in the development and growth of Jong Bonaire for almost 20 years has retired

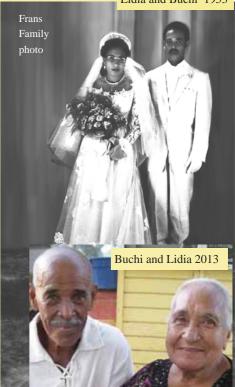
from the bestuur. Alex's contribution and insight into the needs of young people have been extremely important in assuring that Jong Bonaire continues to serve the youth of the island effectively and responsibly.

Jong Bonaire is the largest youth organization on Bonaire and perhaps in the whole Dutch Caribbean. The stichting was founded in 1950 and many generations of Bonaireans have been able to benefit from its facilities and programs. In 1998, Jong Bonaire opened its after-school program and, since then, more than 2,200 Bonaire teenagers have enjoyed a safe, structured and exciting place to spend their afternoons. In 2012 Jong Bonaire began a summer program that is now a regular feature for local teens during their school vacations. In 2013, night programs offering a variety of sports activities and computer training has begun as well as a new Live, Learn and Work Center for young adults.

Stichting Jeugdwerk Jong Bonaire is dedicated to helping the youth of Bonaire develop as productive citizens, good parents and contributors to the local society regardless of race, religion, nationality or place of origin. Anyone wishing to participate in this effort either as a bestuur member, volunteer or donor can contact Ilona Burgers, General Manager at 717-4303 ext. 13 or e-mail to

ilona.burgers@jongbonaire.org. Press release

## Congratilations



idia and Buchi Frans celebrated their **4** 60th wedding anniversary last week with two huge parties, one at Kunuku Arawak and the other for family and neighbors at their home kunuku.

Buchi is very physically active at 82 years old and can be found building cactus fences. His wife often accompanies him. They are examples of traditional Bonaireans of past times who remain vibrant and successful in this new century.  $\blacksquare$  *G.D.* 



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## Exciting Dolphin News



uring a visit to the Southern Caribbean Catagories bean Cetacean Network (SCCN) offices in Curacao recently, Ron and Dawn **Sewell,** Bonaire residents, who are running an informal Bottlenose Dolphin research group here on Bonaire, made a very interesting discovery.

One specific Bottlenose dolphin that was photographed just off the coast of Bonaire in call in, photograph, follow, report back with 2008, is the same animal that has been photographed on Curacao in 2003, and again on September 2nd this month on the very day that Ron and Dawn were visiting to discuss a strengthening of the SCCN group and developing more awareness of the general cetacean activities in our waters.

It is surprising what is going on out there in the sea, right under our very noses. Over the last few years we have had humpback whales here in Bonaire right on our drop off Just a casual glance into the water off Punt Vierkant one day and I saw a humpback just surface in front of me. I called some neighbors and we all enjoyed a half an hour watching this magnificent mammal seemingly performing just for us, until it became too dark to see it.

In Curacao, they have seen Brides Whales, Striped Dolphins (very rare), Rough Toothed Dolphins, which almost certainly pass by us in Bonaire as well. In fact, the SCCN has identified 13 species of dolphins and whales in our waters since 2001 when the organization was started.

For the sailing community and those others venturing out between Bonaire and Curacao, we would really love to elicit your help please to report any sightings at all preferably with a GPS position, time, date and direction of travel. Any pictures would be a bonus.

During the two day trip to Curacao, it was also established beyond any doubt that two other animals photographed here on Bonaire have also been seen on Curacao proving that the groups (or Pods) of Bottlenose Dolphins seen regularly swimming gracefully from

North to South on Bonaire, just off the drop off do indeed travel to and from Curacao giving us what could be classed as our own semi resident population.

Ron and Dawn would particularly like to ask the general public here on Bonaire to please help in this research by joining their 'sighting network' of volunteers who will any information possible about Bottlenose Dolphins.

raining documents are available for those interested.

If anybody sighting a group could telephone on 717 2458 or 0753 207 0041 and in the event that there is no answer to please send an email to ron.sewell@diamondwaters.com with the date and time together with an approximate number of Dolphins counted as this would be extremely helpful in establishing more about their behavior and travel patterns.

An extra request: If you have spotted and taken photos or videos of dolphins around the coast of Bonaire (dorsal fin photos are needed the most), please send details to the email address above.

Help us please to have extra eyes out on the water and be a part of our 'Citizen Scientists' team!

Over the next few weeks and months, we will be publishing a number of articles about dolphins and cetaceans, including information about how to spot the differences between the different species, how to approach groups in motorized and sailing craft, more about the SCCN, how to become involved in research into dolphin activities and behaviour, plus any other aspects of cetaceans that might become more prominent as time goes by. ■ Ron Sewell

Bonaire Offshore Bottlenose Dolphin Project Home: 717 2458 Mobile: 795 3368 Email: ron.sewell@diamond-waters.com

New Shop For Sandals & More

Bonaire/Kralendijk ust recently Nimh Verkerk opened the doors of her new shop in the Kaya Curacao, the little alley in between the oldest Chinese restaurant of the island and Karel's Bar. In her colorful shop Nimh sells sandals, laces, beachwear, bikini's and sunglasses. The unique

aspect of this new shop is you are able to combine your own individual sandals. There is a wide variety of all kinds of sandal soles in different colors and those soles can be combined with hundreds of different laces in different colors and styles.

Nimh: "The philosophy behind my enterprise is to make it possible for fashionable women to create a complete new outfit for less than \$100: a bikini, a pair of sunglasses, a beach robe and, of course, a set of

Anonymous tourist, Sandra Rosenboom, Marjan Verkerk, Nimh Verkerk

colorful sandals. These unique sandals are made in Mexico. The first time I saw them was in Gotica, close to Las Ramblas in Barcelona. I liked the idea that much that I decided to start my own shop on Bonaire. We completely restyled the inside and the outside of the shop. Everything is very smiley and colorful. Inside I have a rainbow of laces to combine with the sandal soles. Outside the used colors are red, pink and purple. Marianne Noorlander helps me with painting figures and ornaments on the white walls."

Nimh shows me her collection of sandals and laces. She explains how to combine the colors and wrap the laces around your feet, ankles and lower legs. She shows me the two chairs, made out of a supermarket trolley and she tells me about the pink bench in front of the shop. This is one of the secrets of Nimh: for every man, husband, lover, partner or friend she has a refreshment in her refrigerator. The trolleys and the pink bench are perfect spots to enjoy a drink while the women are busy composing a new pair of sandals or a complete outfit. Clever, warm hearty and always smiling girl.

SunSmiles is open from Wednesday to Saturday, from 11:00 until 19:00 hours, and on cruise days. Nimh has a website: sunsmilescaribbean.com. Follow SunSmiles on twitter.com/sunsmilescarib and on facebook.com/sunsmilescaribbean. ■ Jan Brouwer

Peggy Bakker received a big surprise at her birthday party last week.

Calixto Coffie and his trio stopped in to serenade her and her guests for over an hour.

Peggy knew the words to many of their songs. It brought back the nostalgic times then the trio were regulars at area restaurants.





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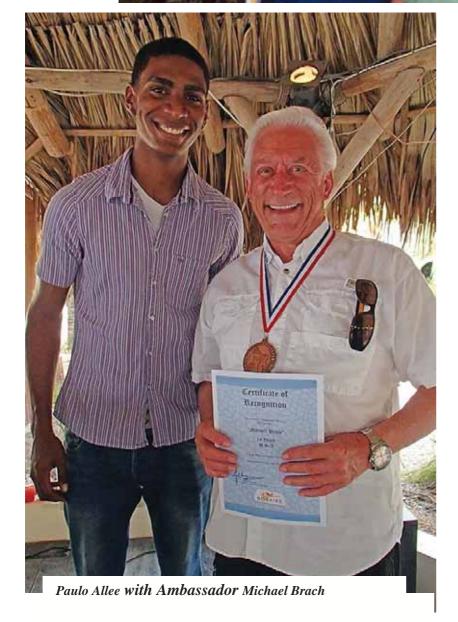
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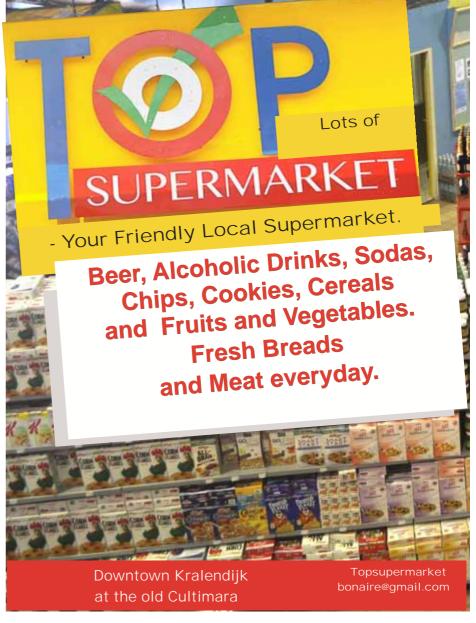
## Newest Bonaire Ambassadors

aire Ambassadors receive special recognition, gifts and other acknowledgment of their repeated visits to our island. The concept of recognizing the contribution of repeat tourists was first initiated by Bonaire's "Father of Tourism" Nicky Tromp in the 1960s. But it diminished in importance over the years until it was re-established

hirteen persons were honored as Bonaire Ambassadors this past August. Bon- as the Bonaire Ambassador program by his son Delno when he was in charge of Marketing at the tourist bureau in 2002. Since then hundreds of Bonaire's repeat guests have been thrilled to get recognized. Reportedly there has been some discussion to eliminate the program in favor of newer initiatives but that hasn't happened, yet. We certainly hope it won't.  $\blacksquare$  *G.D.* 







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RRSW?

That the Mimic octopus (*Thaumoctopus mimicus*) has the amazing ability to mimic lionfish, sea snakes, anemones, jellyfish, flatfish, brittle stars, giant crabs, stingrays, flounders and mantis shrimp!

It is typically covered in brown and white stripes and spots and mostly inhabits the tropical seas of South East Asia. It usually gets up to about two feet long and uses jets of water to sashay over the sand, searching for prey. Its body mostly consists of muscle without any spines or type of armour, thus it is desirable to many



deep-water predators, especially since they do not possess poison or venom. Thus it utilises mimicry to avoid these predators, but also to feed on other animals that would usually attempt to escape once they see an octopus. They are extremely intelligent and have the ability to camouflage by changing the colour and texture of their skin in order to avoid predators. They are also so intelligent that they are able to decide upon which creature to impersonate in order to present the greatest threat. For example when in the vicinity of territorial damselfish, it mimics their known predator, the banded sea snake. To mimic a lionfish it spreads its legs and lingers on the ocean

floor and lets its arms float behind to emulate the fins of a lionfish. When it mimics a sea snake, it buries its entire body in sand and leaves a few tentacles exposed so it appears as a few dangerous snakes wriggling around! Fadilah Ali

Fadilah Ali is a PhD Student at the University of Southampton. She is currently working at CIEE Research Station Bonaire as an Intern.







**Sharella Coffi Jansen** traveled far this year. She visited different parts of Europe including London, Spain, France and others.

Sharella always travels with her *Bonaire Reporter* in order to take amazing pictures. She writes, "Here is a picture of me in London standing next to a guard and of course with my *Reporter* in hand, being careful because the horse may kick. We arrived the same day that baby boy, Prince George Alexander Louis, was born. It was an amazing experience as for everywhere people were celebrating the birth of the baby boy."

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Kaya Grandi 32B, down a bit in the alley in between Best Pearls and Gio's Ice Parlor Phone: 717-9181

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#### Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
October Tue 01		04:43 0.10 ft	10:15 0.51 ft	16:20 0.26 ft	21:44 0.62 ft	6:24	18:25
Wed 02		05:09 0.14 ft	10:52 0.56 ft	17:32 0.26 ft	22:35 0.53 ft	6:24	18:24
Thu 03		05:33 0.18 ft	11:32 0.63 ft	18:55 0.23 ft	23:40 0.44 ft	6:24	18:24
Fri 04	New Moon	05:57 0.22 ft	12:14 0.71 ft	20:19 0.17 ft		6:24	18:23
Sat 05	01:02 0.37 ft	06:23 0.24 ft	13:01 0.79 ft	21:32 0.09 ft		6:24	18:23
Sun 06	02:32 0.33 ft	06:58 0.25 ft	13:49 0.88 ft	22:31 0.01 ft		6:24	18:22
Mon 07	03:50 0.31 ft	07:45 0.26 ft	14:39 0.96 ft	23:21 -0.07 ft		6:24	18:21
Tue 08	04:48 0.32 ft	08:45 0.26 ft	15:30 1.02 ft			6:25	18:21
Wed 09		00:06 -0.13 ft	05:33 0.35 ft	09:50 0.24 ft	16:21 1.07 ft	6:25	18:20
Thu 10		00:48 -0.17 ft	06:14 0.39 ft	10:55 0.23 ft	17:12 1.08 ft	6:25	18:19
Fri 11	First Quarter	01:28 -0.18 ft	06:54 0.44 ft	12:00 0.21 ft	18:02 1.06 ft	6:25	18:19
Sat 12		02:08 -0.18 ft	07:36 0.51 ft	13:05 0.20 ft	18:54 1.00 ft	6:25	18:18
Sun 13		02:47 -0.15 ft	08:20 0.59 ft	14:13 0.19 ft	19:46 0.91 ft	6:25	18:18
Mon 14		03:25 -0.11 ft	09:06 0.67 ft	15:24 0.18 ft	20:41 0.78 ft	6:25	18:17
Tue 15		04:02 -0.05 ft	09:53 0.75 ft	16:41 0.17 ft	21:41 0.65 ft	6:25	18:17
Wed 16		04:40 0.03 ft	10:42 0.82 ft	18:03 0.14 ft	22:51 0.51 ft	6:25	18:16
Thu 17		05:17 0.10 ft	11:31 0.88 ft	19:26 0.09 ft		6:25	18:16
Fri 18	00:13 0.41 ft	05:53 0.18 ft	12:22 0.92 ft	20:45 0.02 ft	Full Moon	6:25	18:15
Sat 19	01:51 0.35 ft	06:31 0.24 ft	13:12 0.95 ft	21:53 -0.04 ft		6:25	18:15
Sun 20	03:32 0.34 ft	07:12 0.30 ft	14:01 0.96 ft	22:49 -0.08 ft		6:26	18:14
Mon 21	04:56 0.36 ft	08:00 0.34 ft	14:48 0.95 ft	23:36 -0.11 ft		6:26	18:14
	05:54	08:56	15:33			6:26	18:13

nice porch. Appliances include; Dishwasher, Oven, Stove, Microwave, Fridge w/ice maker, Water Heater for Showers, Aircos in all bedrooms. Call: 796-9559 or 796-5885.

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During Regatta still studios available to rent 1-2 persons at Hato. 796 2529

#### Sudoku Puzzle

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

#### **Sudoku Solution**

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

## SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

#### **AIRLINES**

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

## APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

**City Shop**, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances, furniture, TV, computers, cell phones and more. In-store financing too.



#### **AUTOMOBILE DEALER**

Check out **Auto City Bonaire** for the widest selection of new car brands on Bonaire including Chevrolet, Honda, Isuzu, Suzuki, Subaru. Used cars too. Complete service department. Hertz rentals.

#### **BANK**

**ORCO Bank** offers one-on-one attention, personal banking. Each client is a person, not a number.

Office in the historic building at Kaya Grandi 48.

#### **BARS**

**Zazu Bar at the Harbour Village Marina** is all you expect in a great bar. Super bartender, quality drinks and friendly service. Plus Bonaire's only Rum Bar– over 50 types!

#### **BEAUTY PARLOR**

**Hair Affair**. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing. Great new shop on Kaya Grandi. Walk-in service too

#### **CARS AND BIKES**

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

**Want to see You See Your Business' Advertisement Here?** Contact *The Reporter* at 786-6518 or email laura@bonairereporter.com. Your "bottom line" will look better as a result of advertising with us.

#### **DENTURE REPAIR**

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

#### ON and IN the WATER

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

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

#### **UNDERWATER VIDEO**

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

#### GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

#### HOME CARE

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

#### **OPTICIAN**

**Buena Vista Optics** is Bonaire's most up-to-date place to get eyeglasses or contact lenses. The combination of experienced personnel and advanced equipment and technology make it a top value

#### **PHOTOGRAPHER**

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

A Directory listing is free for regular advertisers in *The Reporter*Call Laura at 786-6518 for information

#### REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

Caribbean Homes, "the Refreshing Realtor," specializing in luxury homes, condos, lots, rentals and property management. Yacht sales too.



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



#### **RESTAURANTS**

**Bistro de Paris**— Waterfront location at the Harbour Village Marina. Superb menu, genuine French dishes in a waterfront ambiance. Airco if you want it.

**La Balandra at The Harbour Village Resort** offers Bonaire's most spectacular setting. Superb cuisine, top notch service. Eat on the deck or with your feet in the sand.

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

**Unbelievable Restaurant** is offers rooftop terrace dining with a view of Kralendijk bay, a fine menu specializing in prime steaks and seafood. Just a short walk from downtown or southern "hotel row.:

#### RETAIL

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

**Bona Dea** is Bonaire's newest Caribbean lifestyle shop featuring good taste gifts, apparel, shoes, accessories and home décor

#### **SECURITY**

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

#### **STORAGE**

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



#### SHIPPING

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

#### SPAS/GYM/HEALTH

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

## BON BIDA SPA & GYM

#### SUPERMARKETS

#### **TOP Supermarket**—

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

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



#### MADE ON BONAIRE

**Semper Kontentu goat cheese.** Ask for it at restaurants and look for it in the markets. Lovingly handmade. Mugs available.



#### **VARIETY STORE**

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

#### WATER TAXI

**Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry.** Ride the *Kantika di Amor*. Hotel or downtown pickup The only water taxi to Klein Bonaire with an easy on/off built-in ramp at Bonaire Nautico (It Rains Fishes Restaurant)

#### TortugUnAn di Boneiru Rock

ast Thurs-→ day after the last class of **Bonaire Turtles** received certificates for completing the snorkel snorkeling lessons. Congratulations!



Joënny Molina, Sidney Janga, Edelmar Molina, Charlton Bernabela, Nayeli Lugo, Christina Dijkstra and Marneley Saragoza

Every year primary school children receive an invitation from STINAPA's Nature and Environmental Education unit to participate in the "Turtuganan di Boneiru" (Turtles of Bonaire) program. During the course of this program they have the opportunity to discover the underwater world using mask and snorkel. This after school activity, which lasts five weeks, is possible with the help of FESBO, who collect and transport the children to where ever they need to be for that day's theory or practical activity. Participants must be between 9 and 12 years old and they have to be able to swim.

The children learn about the importance of conservation of our marine life, about what corals really are and about the relationship between fish and the coral reef. They also learn about the Marine Park rules and regulations. They are taught how to snorkel safely and in order to practice their snorkeling skills they visit several snorkel sites where they can observe the underwater world. Emphasis is put on the internationally protected species such as the sea turtles and the Karko (Conch). One of the many activities is kayaking and snorkeling in the mangroves in Lac with the staff of the Mangrove Center.

Last week Thursday the following children from the Nort di Salija community center received their certificate of participation: Joënny Molina, Sidney Janga, Edelmar Molina, Charlton Bernabela, Nayeli Lugo, Christina Dijkstra and Marneley-Saragoza

Many thanks to Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) for offering the use of their facility for classroom sessions, and to FESBO leader MariskaVlijt and her team for organizing transportation and making sure that the lessons start on time! The children had a lot of fun and they learned a great deal about Bonaire's marine life.

For more information about our youth programs please contact Desiree Croes, coordinator STINAPA's Nature and Environmental Education unit, on 7951915 or visit the Facebook page NME STINAPA Bonaire. ■ Press Release

## BonKarate Wins Again



wo weeks ago six members of BonKarate participated in the Yamazaki ▲ Karate tournement in Aruba. It was an all-day event. Karate schools from Curacao and Aruba also participated. Competing for Bonaire were: Thuersten Winklaar, Everon Vrutaal, Dylan Loozen, Daeline Laurens, Ashanty Martina and Kia-San Silberie. They were coached by Sensei Peter Silberie and daughter Desiree Silberie.

Bonaire excelled. Kia-San Silberie and Daeline Laurens won gold medals in the under 18 and under 12 categories respectively.,

Everon Vrutaal and Ashanty Martina won silver medals in the 16/17 year old category.Medal winners also included Thuersten Winklaar and Dylan Loozen with bronzze. Several pBonKarate members won multiple medals.

Sensei Peter Silberie says he is pleased with the result. ■ *Press release* 





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## BONAIRE PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

#### AN OUTSTANDING OCTOBER

October is a good month in the Bonaire Sky Park. There are some subtitle sights, some spectacular and, count them, two, meteor showers to see. On October 3 the planet Uranus is at Opposition. The blue-green 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 Uranus. Due to its distance, it will only appear as a tiny blue-green dot in all but the most powerful telescopes.

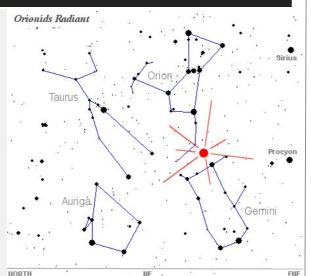
October 5 - New Moon. The Moon will be directly between the Earth and the Sun and will

not be visible from Earth. This phase occurs Moon because at this time of year the at 4 am Sky park time. This is the best time leaves are falling and the game is fat and of the month to observe faint objects such ready to hunt. This moon has also been as galaxies and star clusters because there known as the Travel Moon and the Blood is no moonlight to interfere.

October 7, 8 - Draconids Meteor **Shower.** The Draconids is a minor meteor shower producing only about 10 meteors per hour. It is produced by dust grains left behind by comet 21P Giacobini-Zinner, which was first discovered in 1900. The shower runs annually from October 6-10 and peaks this year on the night of the 7th and morning of the 8th. The thin crescent moon will set early in the evening leaving dark skies for optimal observing. Best viewing will be just after midnight from a dark location far away from city lights. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Draco, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

October 9 - Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation. The planet Mercury will be hind by comet Halley, which has been at its furthest angle from the Sun, known as greatest elongation. It will be at its highest point in the night sky after sunset. This is the best time to try to view Mercury since it stays so close to the Sun and doesn't usually climb very high above the horizon.

October 18 - Full Moon. The Moon will be directly opposite the Earth from the Sun and will be fully illuminated as seen from Earth. This full moon was known by early



**Moon**. This will also be the smallest full moon of the year because it will be near apogee, its farthest point from the Earth.

October 18 - **Penumbral Lunar Eclipse**. A penumbral lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes through the Earth's partial shadow, or penumbra. During this type of eclipse the Moon will darken slightly but not completely. The eclipse will be visible throughout most of the world except for Australia and extreme eastern Siberia.

(Source: NASA Map and Eclipse Information)

October 21, 22 - Orionids Meteor **Shower.** The Orionids is an average shower producing up to 20 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by dust grains left beknown and observed since ancient times. The shower runs annually from October 2 to November 7. It peaks this year on the night of October 21 and the morning of October 22. The waning gibbous moon will block some of the meteors this year, but the Orionids tend to be fairly bright so it could still be a good show. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Orion, but can appear anywhere in the sky. ■ NASA re-



By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

October 2013

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You will find travel and lectures most stimulating. Your attitudes at work will open new avenues for you. You may win favors if you present your ideas and include your family. Don't allow your personal problems to interfere with your professionalism. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Sudden changes regarding your domestic scene are probable. Financial investments that deal with joint money can be extremely prosperous. Misunderstandings at work could easily lead to your demise. This will not be the day to lend money to friends or family. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Use your charm, but don't be phony. Joint ventures might prove to be unfavorable. Education may be the answer. Exercise is always a good way to relieve stress. Your lucky day will be Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You will have to make changes in order to eliminate may experience financial loss if you don't the tension. You will learn easily if you put use good judgment. Drastic financial forth an effort. You will have to be sure not to burn the candle at both ends. Let your lover know what your personal intentions are. Your lucky day will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Someone you care about may not be too well. Disappointments are likely if your mate embarrasses you in front of friends. You may be sensitive concerning friends and their situations. Concentrate on your career and on making money. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You may be experiencing emotional turmoil in regard to your mate. You can accomplish the most if you travel for business purposes. Consider a conservative investment that will stay solid when everything else goes sour. A change of attitude has probably disrupted your home environment. Your lucky day will be Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can offer your mate a commitment or promise that will help stabilize your personal life. Curl up with a good book or go for a drive

in the country. You will be drawn to individuals who can provide you with both intellectual conversation and physical passion. Risky ventures may turn in your favor. Your lucky day will be Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You will enjoy lavish forms of entertainment and should consider making arrangements early. Entertainment could be pleasing if it is of an energetic nature. Do not let lovers cost you money or take advantage of you. Hassles with female colleagues may lead to problems with your boss. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec.

21) Use your creative abilities to come up with new ideas and directions. Your lover will be annoyed with your participation. Try to satisfy both of your needs. Get help setting up a reasonable budget. Look into ways of making extra cash. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You losses may be likely if you lend money. Ask those in key positions to help you overcome the delays and to support your concerns in order to move on. Although up setting, changes in your domestic situation will be favorable. Your lucky day will be Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You need an outlet that will help take your mind off any troubles at work. Your home environment may be hectic, which could result in emotional upset if you aren't well organized. You must be extremely careful not to let relatives or friends interfere in your personal life. Your goals will be in reach if you direct your energy wisely. Your lucky day will be Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Look into ways to make your home more comfortable. You will have to put those you live with in their place if they try to interfere with your work. Responsibilities with respect to older relatives may be a burden. Try to include friends and relatives in your activities. Your lucky day will be Thursday. ■





## MILLE CICILIAN SILVER S

#### **CLOSE-IN EVENTS**

Saturday, October 5— Farmers Market at Kriabon, Kaminda Yatu Baku, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am-1pm



October 6 - 12—46th Bonaire International Sailing Regatta . Full sailing program planned. Shore-side events begin on Wednesday.

Sunday, October 6-

- -Jong Bonaire's Annual Swim to Klein Bonaire
- **Event** See poster on page 12
- -Artisan's Exhibition, Sentro Chichi'Tan Museo in Rincon
- -Namaste Nature Walk at 6:00am

Kaya Perla / Kaya Turquoise # 4, Republiek

Saturday, October 12 -Dive Friends Bonaire Quarterly Underwater Cleanup



Sunday, October -20 Fourth Annual Duo Xtreme Mountain Bike Race

#### **REGULAR EVENTS**

- Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.
- We Dare to Care Park children's playground closed due to lack of financing.

#### Saturdays

- •Last Saturday of the month donate foods and household items to Food Bank (*Stichting voedselbank Bonaire*) from 10 am-4 pm, in front of Van den Tweel Supermarket
- •Open House at Semper Kontentu milk goat farm. Second Saturday of the month, 8 am to 12 noon. 786-6950 Closed until November
- •Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market) 1st Saturday of the month, at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am to 1 pm.
- •Bonaire Animal Shelter's "Garage Sale" Pakus di Pruga—every Saturday, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Tel. 717-4989. Drop off cast offs on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road weekdays. 717-4989
- Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse on Kaya Industria, Second Saturday of the month, 7-9 pm. (Always call to make sure it's on: Tel. +5999-560-7539.) Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 per person.
- Soldachi Tours—See the real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information—796-7870.
- •Petanque- Jeu de Boules, Saturdays 2:30 pm Tera Cora Ranch. Info: 786-0150

#### **Sundays**

•Kunuku Arawak - Music, drinks, local food, dancing, 10 am—6 pm. Live music starts at 4 pm. Tel.786-7210

#### Mondays

- Soldachi Tours of Rincon, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria, 717-6435– Bonaire's <u>best is-</u> <u>land tour value</u>
- Meet the Captain Night at Captain Don's Habitat Bar— Get up close and personal with Bonaire's dive pioneer. The Captain will autograph your copy of his newest book Reef Windows... Wednesdays

Divemaster's Night at Bistro de Paris Restaurant at Harbour Village Marina. Free house rum when you buy a coke.

**30-minute Meditation at Yoga Bonaire**, 12 noon, Bonaire Basics. Donation. 786-6416 or info@bonaireyoga.com

#### **Fridays**

Happy Hour party at Bistro Di Paris. Ricky Thomas performs Reggae, Soul, Latin and more 6-9pm.

#### FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

<u>Monday</u> - Touch the Sea -- Will resume in November- Dee Scarr, honored as a member of the Women Divers Hall of Fame, conducts Bonaire's Touch the Sea programs of personalized dive guiding. She presents a unique perspective on

critters and corals, plus an updated Bonaire lionfish report, **every Monday when she's on-island** at 8:30 pm in the Aquarius Conference Center at Captain Don's Habitat, Call 717-8290.

<u>Wednesday</u> - Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) presents an informative slide show: Sea Turtles of Bonaire, at 8pm, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday in the conference room at Captain Don's Habitat (717-8290)

#### **BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS**

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018

**Museo Sentro Chichi'Tan**, historical home, behind Rose Inn, Rincon, open 10am-4pm daily. Tel. 786-6420

Washington-Slagbaai National Park Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on December 25th and January 1st. Call 788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681

#### **CLUBS and MEETINGS**

**Bridge Club -** Every Wednesday, Bridge Club on Bonaire. 19:15, contact Jeroen Seegers for information tel. 717-4200 or788-2819 or jeroen@telbonet.an

**Darts Club** plays **every other Sunday** at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

**Lions Club** meets every **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

**Rotary** lunch meetings **Wednesdays**, 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

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

#### CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire:

( VPGB ), Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday service-10 am in Dutch. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday

service-8:30 am in Papiamentu/Dutch.

Children's club-every Saturday from 4:30-6 pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the church.) Contact; Marytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

**International Bible Church,** Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. Tuesday 7:30 pm-Adult Bible study class. 717-8377 for more info or ride bonaireibc@yahoo.com

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

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

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios): Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am. Wed. Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194

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

Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, Republiek. Services are held Sunday mornings10am-11:30am. Bible studies in English on Monday nights from 7-8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

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

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

Iglesia di Cristo (Church of Christ) Sunday: 10:30 am & 7:00 pm; Wednesday: 7:00 pm. Services in Papiamentu (English also if needed) Address: Kaya Msgr. Nieuwindt 25 (same street as Dr. Dorvil) Cell: 796-0721

Call *The Reporter* at 786-6518 if you have something HAPPENING

#### Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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## Undiscover Scuba

am breathing. ... am breathing underwater.

▲ I am breathing underwater through a cylindrical tank strapped to my back while the contraption in my mouth that some sadistic orthodontist must have created to make me believe I could actually breathe underwater delivers air to my lungs.....

...with 12 pounds of weight strapped to a belt around my waist

...AND NOW WHAT?? ARE YOU KIDDING ME??

The cute little instructor in front of me (who, by the way, seems to actually be SMILING about this whole ordeal) wants me to fill my "goggles" with water then try to clear the water out in one proficient maneuver that not only seems to defy the laws of breathing, but also defy the laws of self- preservation, dignity and basically staying alive..

...with 12 pounds of weight strapped to a belt around my waist I am crying.. I am crying underwater...

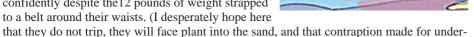
It was a "Discover Scuba" course.

What I "Discovered" was that Scuba was not for me. I really wanted to try to like this. Oh, what to do now.

I am sobbing as my two sisters surface from the deep, each proficient divers, each with a gigantic smile on her face each anticipating me to join them in the next two weeks on their undersea journeys.

Each not seeming to notice the cylindrical tank strapped to their back; each having tossed aside the contraption from their mouth that some sadistic orthodontist must have created to make them believe they could actually breathe underwater, and walking confidently despite the 12 pounds of weight strapped to a belt around their waists. (I desperately hope here

water breathing will not help them ... I shudder..)



They left me confidently "on deck" with the instructor, a small class of scuba hopefuls, with salty dreams of skill sand thrills that would bring a smile on our faces and eventually have us joining in their pre and post aquatic antics that defines the rapture of the deep.

I so wanted to be able to share their joy, to talk incessantly at dinner about The cool frogfish on the purple sponge (is it a frog or is it a fish, and does it need a bath, is that why it needed the sponge?) or to ponder the Spotted moray eel that was free swimming. (I almost faint here at the thought of "eel" and "free swimming" in the same sentence).

I feel as though I have disappointed them, me, the weak link in the sister chain.

Nevermore to engage in the safety stop humor that a jumping jawfish allowed my sisters to giggle about, or the slug (and I cringe here as well) that made my oldest schoolteacher sister blush...

They see me on shore, crying (and, thank the gods, they do not trip)

They hug me, they reassure me that diving is not for everyone, even though my bossy sister insists that "there is NO crying in diving!). They call me, affectionately, "Surface Support.

They assure me I will be on every dive with them, just on the surface, on deck, without a tank strapped to my back, snorkeling, with the ability to raise my head up for a gasp of air ANY TIME I WANT TO!

Me, Surface Support, at the ready with masks (not goggles, as my bossy sister pointed out), prepped with baby shampoo to avoid fogging, and fins (not flippers, from bossy girl again) straps stretched totally for ease of donning, and ready to assist as they emerge, dry towels, cool water, Back of the truck at the ready for their tanks,

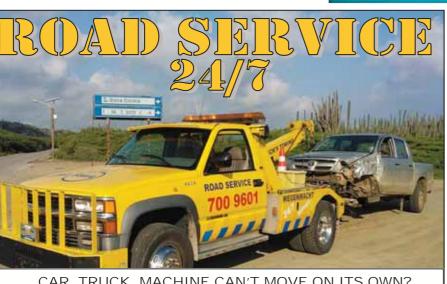
peel the orange for their post dive snack, strategically locating where to lunch, and driving them to the next dive site.

WOW, I have a title, I AM something, I am Surface Support. This could be cool,

THEN... something magical happens. They treat me to my first post- dive Amstel Bright beer ...with a lime... HMM,,,I might like this diving thing after all... 

\*\*Bethanne Kader\*\*





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## Pet of the Week

hat a handsome fellow "Xander" is. It's pretty obvious that he carries a strong Dalmatian gene, perhaps from some of those original Dalmatians brought onto the island decades ago, many of whom seemed to love the "local dog girls." But what Xander inherited as well as his spots from his ancestors is his very good energy and enthusiasm.

The Dalmatian breed goes back several hundred years when they started out as coach dogs, but then later the expanded their horizons as hunters, circus performers, and fire engine dogs. Xander himself personifies these traits and would love to be part of a family and do all the energetic things that they like to do. As do all Dalmatians he needs to have positive training with time for plenty of activity. He's friendly with people and good with kids.

As are all the other cats and dogs up for adoption at the Bonaire Animal Shelter Xander has been pronounced

"Bonaire Dalmatian" Xander

healthy, has had his shots, worming, been sterilized and even has his ID chip.

You may meet Xander and the other pets up for adoption at the Shelter on the

You may meet Xander and the other pets 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. WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com, They're on Facebook too. ■

#### **Animal Shelter December Auction**

Attention: Artists, craftspeople, people in the service industry, the Shelter needs you. The annual Shelter Art Auction is one of the major sources of funding to help keep the Shelter open for homeless cats and dogs (and to provide a reliable source of healthy and social cats and dogs for adoption). To make it the success it's been they need donations of arts or crafts or services like carpentry, maintenance, painting, boat trips, gift certificates, restaurant vouchers, hotel accommodations—anything that people will be able to bid on. Help keep the Shelter open and have fun doing it!

Call them at 717-4989. ■ Laura DeSalvo

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Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

## A Scream in the Night

EPISODE 6 FROM THE SERIES, DOWN IN THE LAND OF BON BINI

am suddenly rousted out of a deep sleep from a shriek of terror, a sustained banshee wail, a high-pitched howl like I had never heard before. I tumble out of bed. It is 0-dark-thirty and I head dazed and naked in the direction of the commo-



tion.

I meet the first of two Bonaire Animal Shelter graduates. My cat, Sweet Pea, with his moon-sized eyes greets me with an expression that optimistically inquires, *Hey, what's up, Doc? Got any food for me?* Sweet Pea is always optimistic and always hungry. No time for food now. I need to find the source of the strangest, most disturbing sound I have ever heard. The chills down my spine still linger.



The next suspect interviewed is my second cat, Pirate. She is the hunter of the household and can often be found with insect, bird or lizard clamped between her jaws of death. I exaggerate. Actually, Pirate has held a dove, a tropical oriole, a bananaquit, even a bat between her teeth, but never chomped down. We always manage to separate cat from the bird or bat. They have all flown away relatively unharmed.

So what are you after this time, Pirate? At this terribly dark and bloody early time of the day (or is it night?) the cat refuses to look at me during interrogation. Rather, she rudely points her furry, feline butt in my direction and ignores the question. But there is more than just rudeness and insubordination on display here. The cat is intensely looking under the off-the-floor sink cabinet in the small bathroom.



The mega-sound from hell pipes directly into my head. I haven't heard this kind of piercing volume since I was at a Prince concert 30 years ago. The 'scrub pad' morphs into a terrified frog, which leaps for its life. Pirate takes a big swipe at the aerial amphibian and fortunately the cat misses. The frog leaps again and lands halfway up the tiled wall, clinging to the slick surface with its über adhesive feet. I snatch it up in a towel just missing Pirate's second attempt. The rana goes silent under the darkness of the towel.

Now I must tell you I have a tremendous affection for frogs. It started very early in my life when I would tune in to the 1950's NBC-TV kids show, Andy's Gang. There was a cast of weirdo characters like Pasta Fazool and Gunga Ram to grab the attention of hyper adolescents like me strung out on sugar-laced cherry Kool-Aid. And of course there was Buster Brown, the imbedded, mopped-head trickster of a kid who was the appointed character logo of the show's sponsor, Buster Brown Shoes. But my all-time favorite was Froggie the Gremlin. This suave green machine would be summoned each show by host Andy Divine urging, "Pluck your magic twanger, Froggie!" That bawdy sexual innuendo had the studio TV technicians snickering in the background. Then Froggie the Gremlin would proceed to harass Andy Divine the rest of the show. The frog, not the host, was my folk hero.

My affection for frogs continued into adulthood. I never had them as pets but always admired them in their natural setting. Decades later, I had the privilege to make a documentary about the threatened Chiricahua Leopard frogs of southeast Arizona. It was a great story. Enlightened, tough-asnails rancher Matt Magoffin purposely set up water holes for the endangered croakers, free of non-native predator bullfrogs. Magoffin got it. To have a healthy ranch you need a balanced, natural ecosystem. He was giving the edge to his spotted friends so they would survive the invasive bullfrog on-





slaught. I got to know the Chiricahua Leopard frog up-close and personal making that film. That was a cool gig, but I digress.

It is now approaching 4AM and I am still standing in the buff with a frightened frog wrapped in a towel. Pirate the cat gives me a look of disgust. Just when I had the jumping bastard in my sites, you had to go save him! Get over it, cat. The frog will live another day. But before I release it, I take a photo for I have no clue what kind of frog this is. I later send it to herpetologist Mary Brown at the Southeast Ecological Science Center in Florida. She tells me chances are that what I have in my hand now is Osteopilus septentrionalis, more commonly known as the Cuban tree frog.

But then biologist Gerard van Buurt from Curacao chipped in saying that the scream-

ing intruder in question was, in fact, Eleutherodactylus johnstonei, the Johnstone whistling frog. "The species is originally from the (Caribbean's)



Windward Islands and probably originates in St. Kitts and Nevis. This invasive species has spread over a large part of the Caribbean, Venezuela and Colombia. The whistling frog is dispersed with imported plants, since it lays its eggs on plant roots rather than water. They were introduced to Bonaire with potted plants from Venezuela by Mrs. Ochoa at her nursery at Belnem in the 1990s."

OK, enough biological taxonomy. I am still unclothed and holding a quivering amphibian. It is time for liberation. I walk outside to the well-lit stairwell and release the spooked amphibian. It pauses for a moment and adjusts to the light. Suddenly, the frog springs halfway down the stairs. On a second mighty leap, the released rana goes over the edge and lands on the ground ten feet below. My ever-observant spouse whispers loudly from the door, Get your naked butt in here before the neighbors see you! I quickly grab the towel, close the door behind me and peer outside. Faintly in the darkness I hear, RRRRiiiibbbiiiiitttt. Ribet. Mission accomplished. ■

Story and photos by Patrick Holian



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