

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Friends,

What crazy weather! For 3 Sunday's in a row my family and I have enjoyed the rain and big waves. I love the sun but at times it is nice to have a cloudy rainy day to just stay home under the covers. I hope everyone faired well with the "hurricane" and is drying out.

We have so many fun activities planned for the months to come. At our last board meeting the creative juices were flowing and we have come up with some great events for you to enjoy. Our next event is Jolly Pirates. I hope to see all of you there.

I am also thrilled with all the new people who have joined within the past few months. Over and over again I hear people say how thankful they are this group exists. Help spread the word by picking up some of our brochures at the next monthly meeting. Word of mouth is always the best advertisement.

Enjoy this newsletter. It's chock full of information about current and upcoming events. See you at the next IFA gathering!

Regards,  
Diana Hernandez Barefield

**IFA Jolly Pirates**  
**Sunday, September 9**

**Sail, Snorkel, Swim, and Swing!**

We have chartered the Jolly Pirates boat for a day of Fun in the Sun. Swim and snorkel at 3 great sites: Malmok, Boca Catalina, and the 400 ft. WWII shipwreck, Antilla!

Snorkel Gear, open Bar, and rope swing provided!

**You MUST RSVP for this event.**

For those of you who have signed-up remember to meet at Moomba beach, Jolly Pirates office by 2 p.m. You will need to sign forms for each member of your party.

**What to Bring:** towel, sunscreen, picnic lunch

Drinks are provided

We will return to Moomba beach by 6 p.m.

Plan to stay and relax at Moomba afterwards.

## **September Monthly Meeting**

Every month the members of IFA are invited to attend the organization's planning meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other members, catch-up with old friends and eat delicious food. Our Meetings are held at member's homes or local restaurants. Our next meeting is:

Wednesday, **September 26th**

At the home of

**Marina Pesquera**

Sadly, this will be the last time Marina hosts one of our meetings. She will be moving to Palm Beach, Florida in October. Thank you Marina for always being such a gracious hostess.

10:00-10:30 Social Time

10:30-11:00 Meeting

11:00-12:00 Social Time

Directions to Marina's home are an attachment to this email.

## **September Birthdays**

1 - Melinda Gobesz

2 - Jane Pendry

12 - Alima Lageveen

15 - Charles Croes

15 - Art Oxley

23 - Sue Hieter

24 - Nash Melwani  
24 - Jennifer Schettewi  
27 - Scott Derrickson

\*\*We strive to accurately mention member's birthdays. Please inform us if we miss someone's special day.

## New Members

**Chris and Jennifer Sicsila with their children Casey and Gavin** have recently joined IFA. Both Chris and Jennifer work for the U.S. Customs Office. We welcome them to our IFA family.

Make sure to greet and get to know these new members when you see them at a next event.

## Sad Farewells

The difficulty with living in Aruba is the sad farewells to friends that have become family. In the last few months we have had to bid goodbye to: **Phil and Jennifer Schettewi** and their children have temporarily returned to the United States. We hope they return soon.

**Karen, Vince, and Jake Hennep** have moved to Phuket, Indonesia. We wish them all the best in their new endeavors.

**Bob and Chris Werner**, the former headmaster and teachers at the International School of Aruba, have accepted positions at an international school in Brazil.

## People with Special Dietary Needs

Clel Douglas and Diana are putting together a list of foods/products we would like the grocery stores to carry. Many of our children (and some adults) suffer from food allergies and therefore require special foods (i.e. rice pasta, wheat free, gluten free products) that currently are difficult to find on the island. Please contact Clel, [cleliadouglas@setarnet.aw](mailto:cleliadouglas@setarnet.aw), or Diana, [dianabarefield@yahoo.com](mailto:dianabarefield@yahoo.com), if you have a similar need. We are compiling a list of foods/products and then will meet with the storeowners.

## New IFA Board Member

Speaking of **Clel Douglas**...we want to thank her for agreeing to be our new IFA Treasurer. Clel, her husband John, and their son Charlie moved to Aruba about a year ago from Hawaii, although they hail from Australia. Thank you Clel for making a contribution of your time!

# Events

## Toddler Play Group

The second and fourth Tuesday of every month a lively group of toddlers and their mummies get together for fun and refreshments. Bring snacks or drinks to share with the children.

**Tuesday, September 11:** Toddler Play Date at **Melissa Stedeford's**. Call Melissa, 735.2662, for directions.

**Tuesday, September 25:** Toddler Play Date at **Clel Douglas'**. Contact Clel at [cleliadouglas@setarnet.aw](mailto:cleliadouglas@setarnet.aw) for directions.

## Cook N' taste

Once a month members of IFA sign-up to share their culinary skills or a favorite recipe from their home country. This month The Cook and Taste is planned for **September 12th and starts at 10:30 a.m.** RSVP to Sofie at 5939133 or [scan@setarnet.aw](mailto:scan@setarnet.aw).

**Tara Sutthoff and Sophie Sledgers** plan to share vegetarian food recipes and some healthy and delicious desserts.

### Directions to Sophie's Home:

Coming from Oranjestad:

At the traffic lights in Noord (Mc Donalds) you turn right. After 500 meters you turn the first to the right (Millenium Resort). At the intersection of restaurant Buccaneer you turn right into the sand road. It is the first (white) house on your left. Gasparito 6.

## Environmental Clean-up Day

Currently no legislation exists in Aruba against littering. Plastic bag littering is a huge problem causing environmental damage in our oceans and on land. AHATA is working with the 4 major grocery stores to eliminate distribution of plastic bags. At our last IFA monthly meeting, **Mashelle Zeolla**, asked members to choose an area close to their home to clean up. Maybe working in small groups we can make a difference in our community. Mashelle will coordinate a small group cleanup to do at our convenience and in our neighborhoods. A small commitment will go a long way! Contact Mashelle, [mashellezeolla@gmail.com](mailto:mashellezeolla@gmail.com), if you would like to participate.

## Sunrise Hike in the Cunuku

Our very own, **Tara Sutthoff**, led a wonderful yoga/nature camp this summer for children. Many parents were inspired by what we saw and asked Tara to lead something similar for adults. She has offered to lead an early morning hike, Sunday, September 30. This will be a wonderful way to connect with nature, exercise and see the spectacular beauty of the cunuku.

Wear the sturdiest of trainers (that's sneakers for us Yanks) since at least half the journey is covered in small rocks. We will head to the hill, pausing or posing (balancing yoga poses if you fancy) on big rocks, we will reach the highest point and then descend towards the north coast and walk back on the path to base camp. We will be back by approximately 7.45 – 8.15am depending on our tempo.

Suggestions for those who wish to explore and go for a hike but don't have the knees and ankles of a goat...there is another route directly to the wild side, which is kinder to the joints. This same route makes a good bike route. Babies & Kids who are awake at that time are welcome to hang out at the house (le petite ranch) if collectively we find someone to watch them.

Directions to my house.... Where we will begin the hike. Please be there at 6.15am otherwise you may not find us!!

From Noord traffic lights on the 2B road towards Tierra del Sol but not as far as Chinese supermarket Ting Wei. When you reach the big containers on the right, (opposite Bakval), take the next right towards Boroncana, next take the first left towards Rancho Notorious and Rancho di Augustin. Continue all the way up the hill to the end of the asphalt road and go on the sandy road and take the left after the bright yellow house and towards the blue house. My house is behind the bright blue house, Seroe Pela 11m. It's a cute little white house with lime green shutters.

Tel Tara 732 2882    [tsutthoff@hotmail.com](mailto:tsutthoff@hotmail.com) if you have questions

## **BOOK CLUB**

Book Club Members: Here is a list of the books we will be reading and discussing this fall. Let Diana or Jan know if you would like to borrow one of the books; many of us purchased the books over the summer.

**September-** A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini (hardcover)

**October** - Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf (paperback)

**November-** The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho (paperback)

**December-** This I Believe: Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women by Jay Allison (hardcover)

The next book club meeting will be announced in the weekly update.

## **ARA Fun Fair**

On Saturday, October 6th from 10 - 4 there will be a dog wash. Please bring your loving canine(s) to be washed in the parking lot outside of the ballroom. The cost is free but donations are, of course, accepted.

That evening from 6 - 9 a carnival will take place at the Lazy River at the Surf Club. This is a fun time for the whole family with games, food, drinks, and live music!!! Games include a Cake Walk, Ring Toss, Tic Tac Toe, the Human Fruit Machine (a.k.a. the human slot machine), and more! At 8:00 Aruba's first ever Rubber Ducky Race will take place. Duckies are for sale at \$5 each and can be purchased at the event or in advance through the Stellaris Casino or Melissa Stedeford and Mashelle Zeolla. There is over \$14,000 in prizes so far including gift certificates to restaurants and stores, gym memberships, tennis lessons, spa packages, jewelry, Marriott stays around the world, a 42 in flat screen plasma TV, an above ground spa from Willy's Pools and much more!!!

Proceeds go to Animal Rights Aruba and aid in their effort to spade/neuter dogs and cats thus reducing the number of strays and unkempt animals. Over Afl 80,000 was raised in the first two black tie events allowing for ARA to spade/neuter over 1,300 dogs and cats to date!

## **DONATIONS**

We have had many members ask where to can take donations of gently used clothing and house hold items. Jan has asked around and has come up with the following suggestions:

- Fundacion Hende Muher den Dificultad
  - Cas pa hubentud (a youth shelter)
  - Many churches have social committees and monthly they organize events where the less fortunate will come and pick everything that they need. The church in Paradera does this.
  - The New Life Tabernacle, a church in Bubali. They donate clothing & food every Saturday to the homeless. Their address is Bubali 69 and their phone number is 587-0400 (Mon-Fri till 1pm).
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- The orphanage Imeldahof, Dynia Mulleris the director, 587-6085, [imeldahofaruba@setarnet.aw](mailto:imeldahofaruba@setarnet.aw)

Thanks to IFA members **Jodi Tobman and Marlene Purcell** for following up with this information.

## *Next Month...*

We are already busy planning for exciting events in October.

### **Children's Halloween Party!!!!!!**

Mark your calendars: October 28<sup>th</sup> is the children's Halloween Party at Monica and Joel Mills' home in Seroe Colorado. This is a fun day for everyone (and I do mean everyone) to dress up, play games, gather candy, and be silly. More details will follow.

### **Adult Halloween Party!!!!!!!!!!**

IT'S BAAAAAACK!!!!!!!!!! Back by popular demand is the adult Halloween Party. If you had fun at the Disco party then get ready for another blow out! This year David and Diana Barefield are hosting at their home. More details will follow in the weeks to come.

# Seen & Heard

- Thank you **PATRICIA JUTZ** for hosting our August Planning meeting! Thank you Patricia and the board for all the wonderful food.
- Thank you **Maritza Boyce** for meeting with IFA members and discussing immigration problems. Everyone who attended greatly appreciated your help.
- I heard the book club discussion at **Jan Allen's** was fabulous. I am so sorry I missed this meeting because the book, *In the Time of Butterflies*, was such a good read. Thank you Jan for hosting!
- I am looking for a house to rent. I need a 3 or 4 bedroom house with a pool. Let me know if you hear of anything, [dianabarefield@yahoo.com](mailto:dianabarefield@yahoo.com)
- Anna Bouryakova announced at our monthly meeting that she is teaching the waltz and tango at Club de Movimiento in Bubali. She is also considering teaching salsa and adult classical ballet lessons if there is an interest. Contact her, [buriafit@yahoo.com](mailto:buriafit@yahoo.com) for more information.

## CONTACT US!

Do you have a great idea? Done something here or that you would like to see done? Looking for something to buy/sell? Please let us know. Come to our next meeting or contact us.

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