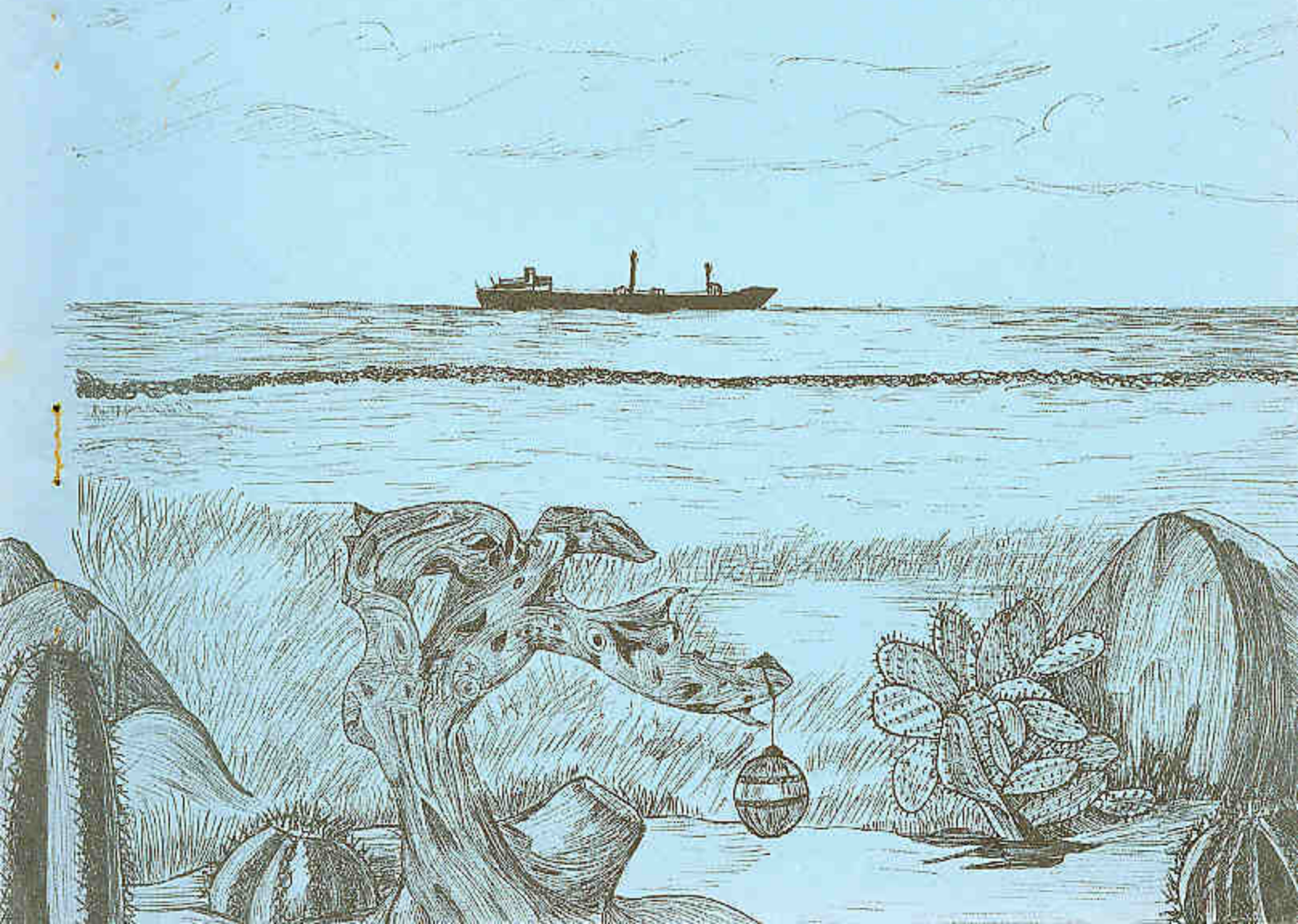
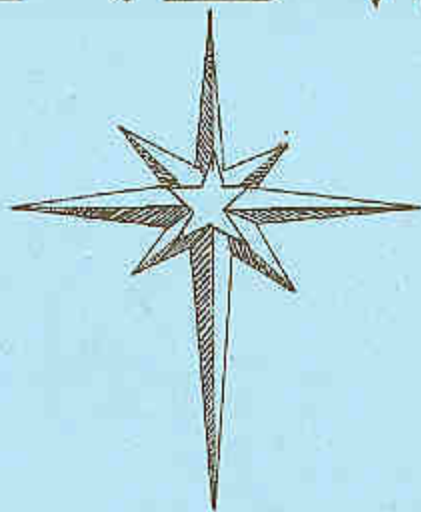


WCA NEWS



S T A F F Joan Alexander, Rose Marie Van Dijk,
Joy Huggins, Carol Rhydderch, Sally Goldberg,
Kit Livingston, Isabel Yzer, Loes Nicholson,
Winnie Wunnink, Lucille Armbrust, Justine Hart,
Ursula Hannibal.

FROM THE PRESS ROOM

December is here once again, each week becoming more filled with activities gradually building to the climax of Christmas. It is the month of the Women's Club Christmas Bazaar which this year sounds as if it will be bigger and better than ever before. In the W.C.A. NEWS this month you will also find information on Christmas activities within the different Women's Club groups, an interesting article on Aruban Christmases at the turn of the century by guest writer Aura Croes adapted by Pat Arends, something on Iguanas plus some valid advice for the club woman by Ruth Stanley, - and more. Our lovely cover was drawn by Carol Rhydderch as were some of the inside illustrations this month and last, and we are fortunate also, in having Ursula Hannibal and our own Lucille Armbrust working on the art with us. We are grateful to Marilee Davies for helping us again this month. To you all from the W.C.A. NEWS Staff - A MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!!!

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NEWS FROM THE TOP

MEMBERSHIP

* * * * *

GFWC CONVENTION SITE ANNOUNCED

From the General Federation Of Women's Clubs we received word that the 1976 GFWC convention will be held at The Bellevue Stratford, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from June 13 through June 18. The GFWC will be most happy to welcome our representative at this convention and as soon as we have more detailed information we will publish it.

*

CARIBBEAN CHURCH WOMEN TO HOLD CONGRESS

The Caribbean Church Women have invited us to participate at their Congress to be held during the week-end of November 28 to 30, 1975. The theme will be: "Dehumanization of Women and How To Change This". The reason for this congress is to close the "International Women's Year" with a study.

*

DONATION TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE DEAF

Our board has approved a donation of approximately Fls. 100.00 to the organization of the deaf to buy school supplies for the children. Normally, our donation would have been made at the end of our year, however, due to their urgent need, the board has decided to donate at this time.

*

PHILO VAN HULTEN RETURNS

We are welcoming Philo van Hulten, who has been on a sick leave for some time. Philo is feeling fine now and has expressed the desire to continue as co-chairman of the Limpi Committee. Once again, Philo, welcome back and don't work too hard.

*

The total number of NEW members this 1975/76 Women's Club Year stands at 78 at the time of printing. This brings the total membership to well over two hundred.

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Women's Club of Aruba is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. This organization has its own 35 page monthly magazine. Several of our members receive the Clubwoman and feel it contains much of interest to us in Aruba. In the September issue are articles on rape, vitamin pills, alcoholism, fashion and fire safety. In addition, you can read news and ideas from other clubs. Subscription price is \$3.50 (U.S.) per year. Send your cheque to:

G.F.W.C. Office
1734 No. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20036
U.S.A.

* * * * *

Making

Parliamentary Procedure Work

by Ruth Stanley

The use of parliamentary procedure to ensure the rights and privileges of the members of a club or organization succeeds when these same members fulfill their duties and obligations. The Board members of our Club are not the only ones to whom this applies. The general membership has obligations as well! Every member should observe the following list of do's and don'ts.

1. DO attend meetings whenever possible.--
DON'T be late.
2. DO give your attention to the person conducting the meeting -
DON'T carry on a conversation with your neighbor while someone is speaking. (This is not only rude, but you are distracting your neighbor as well as making it difficult for others seated near you to listen to what is being said.)
3. DO obtain permission to have the floor when you have something to say -
DON'T interrupt another speaker.
4. DO take part in a debate if you have an opinion or viewpoint, or ask a question if you wish information -
DON'T be silent during the debate and then criticize after the meeting.
5. DO be willing to assume the responsibilities of any office which you may accept -
DON'T accept an office simply because it carries prestige.
6. DO be willing to serve on at least one committee -
DON'T just sit back and expect other members to do all the work.

This list could go on to include many more aspects of being a member. However, it would all boil down to this:

A member should actively participate in a cooperative, courteous and attentive manner.

With a membership like this a club can accomplish many rewarding goals.

Ruth Stanley

MOTHERS' CORNER

During this busy season, this column will be easy for you to try. It requires that you do absolutely nothing and can be applied to the whole family!


Each of us needs time to be by ourselves, but it is especially important for children. The time spent alone helps them to develop a healthy imagination and the ability to fantasize. Perhaps you think an active fantasy life is not desirable, but the experts disagree. They say that a child with a good imagination is more versatile in his talents and better able to cope with the real world, especially in crisis situations. In the January 1974 issue of "Psychology Today", Mary Ann Spencer Pulaski cites studies which prove the above statement and that "low fantasizers tend to be more aggressive and physically active than their highly imaginative peers." She suggests: "Let us give youngsters the time, privacy and respect necessary for them to play out their fantasies, dream their daydreams".

K.L.





I TOOK A LITTLE CHILD'S HAND IN MINE.....

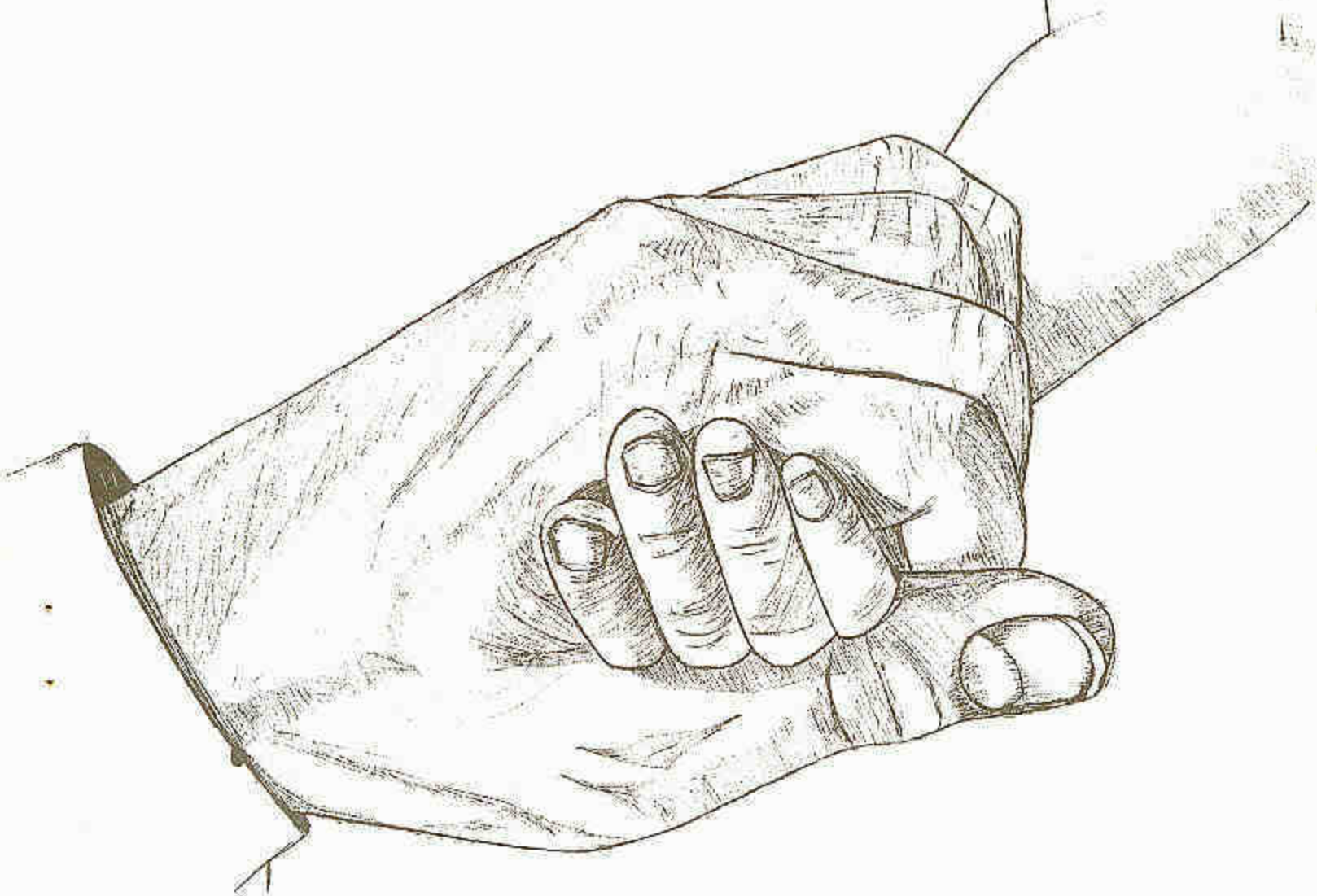


I took a little child's hand in mine. He and I were to walk together for awhile, I was to lead him to the Father. It was a task that overcame me, so awful was the responsibility. And so I talked to the child only of the Father, I painted the sternness of His face were the child to do something to displease Him. I spoke of the child's goodness as something that would appease the Father's wrath. We walked under the tall trees. I said the Father had the power to send them crashing down, struck by his thunderbolts. We walked in the blazing sun, and one twilight we met the Father. The child hid behind me. He was afraid. He would not look up at the face so loving: he remembered my picture. He would not take the Father's hand. I was between the child and Father, I wondered. I had been so conscientious, so serious.

I took a little child's hand in mine. I was to lead him to the Father. I felt burdened with the multiplicity of the things I had to teach him. We did not ramble; we hastened from spot to spot. At one moment we compared the leaves of different trees. In the next we were examining a bird's nest. While the child was questioning me about it, I hurried him away to chase a butterfly. Did he chance to sleep, I awakened him lest he should miss something I wished him to see. We spoke of the Father oh yes, often, often and rapidly. I poured into his ears all the stories he ought to know, but we were often interrupted by the wind a-blowing, of which we needs must study, by the gurgling of a brook which we must trace to its source. And then, in the twilight we met the Father. The child merely glanced at Him and then his gaze wandered in a dozen directions. The Father stretched out His hand, but the child was not interested enough to take it. Feverish spots burned his cheeks. He dropped exhausted to the ground and fell asleep. Again I was between the child and the Father. I wondered. I had taught him so many things.



I took a little child's hand in mine to lead him to the Father. My heart was full of gratitude for the privilege. We walked slowly . I suited my steps to the short steps of the child. We spoke of the things the child noticed. Sometimes we picked the Father's flowers and stroked their soft petals. Sometimes it was one of the Father's birds. We watched it build it's nest. We saw the eggs that were laid; we wondered later at the care it gave its young. Often we told stories of the Father. I told them to the child and the child told them again to me. We rested, leaning against one of the Father's trees and letting his cool air cool our brows and never speaking. And then in the twilight we met the Father. The child's eyes shone. He looked lovingly, trustingly, eagerly up into the Father's face. He put his hand into the Father's hand. I was for the moment forgotten. I was content.



Keeping in Touch

Margaret Hartbarger

This is the second farewell in three years for Margaret Hartbarger. She is looking forward to spending the coming holidays with her children and grand-children.

After the family visit her husband Ken will take up his new assignment with Mobil Oil in Beaumont, Texas.

Margaret was an active member of Women's Club and really enjoyed her association with the Club. Best of Luck to the Hartbargers!

Claire McElheny

After rearing 5 children and working as a secretary, Claire McElheny and her husband decided to try overseas living. For a year she and "Mac", an electrician for McKee, have lived in Aruba. Now they are moving to Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela for three months and then will go to Baton Rouge, Louisiana for several years. Claire is happily planning a Christmas reunion with her children and 7 grand-children in Ohio. A special treat will be seeing for the first time a new granddaughter and a great grandchild. Claire has eagerly pursued many interests in Women's Club including craft classes and cooking groups. She walked our beaches and became an avid shell collector and became famous for her macrame. We'll miss you, Claire.

New address: McKee mundial Inc., Aparto 11, Puerto Ordaz - Edo. Bolivar, Venezuela.

Nancy Deahl

For a family that has moved 34 times in 23 years, the three and a half years on Aruba has been a long stay for the Deahls. Coming here from Sao Paulo, Brazil was a big change but Nancy has enjoyed being here enormously. Don has been able to pursue his love of sailing, and though Nancy doesn't participate in this she must enjoy the beautiful sight of his yellow yacht under sail beating up the lagoon. During her stay Nancy has particularly enjoyed the Study Groups organized by the Women's Club and has participated annually in the Bazaar preparations. Sewing and housedecorating are two vital interests. Now Nancy and Don are on their way to Cochabamba, Bolivia where they expect to live for the next two years. Keep in touch, Nancy, it's been good knowing you.

Barbara and Ivar Larsen's new address is:

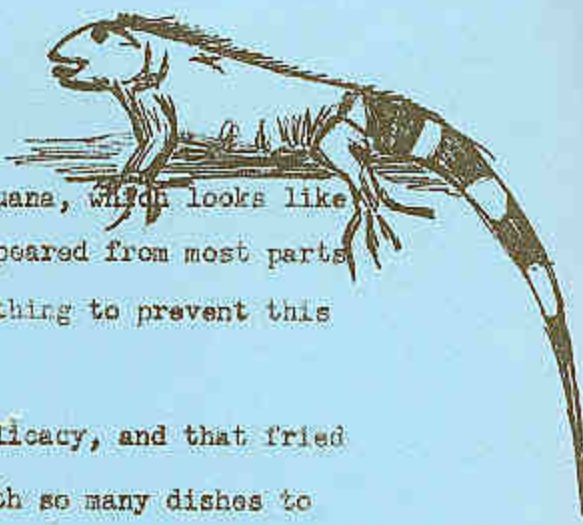
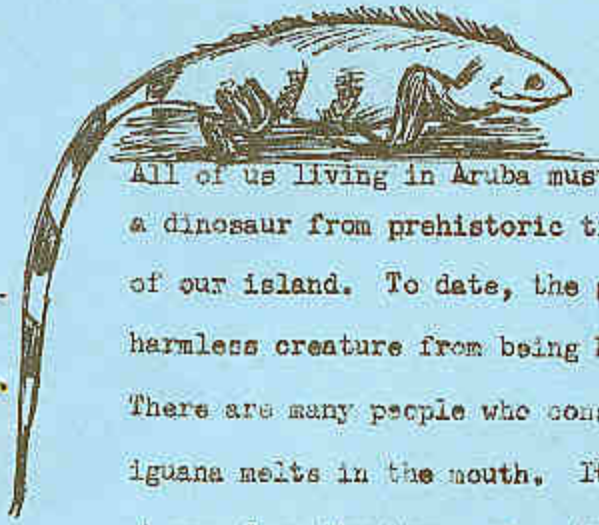
237 Roger Avenue
Westfield, New Jersey 07090

Santa's Mailbag

Christmas is a newsy time. Friends we don't hear from all year let us know what they're doing during this season. If you hear from some

of our ex-W.C.A. members, let us know and we'll have another SANTA'S MAILBAG column this year. Please give your information to any of the staff members.

I G U A N A S



All of us living in Aruba must be aware that the iguana, which looks like a dinosaur from prehistoric times, has almost disappeared from most parts of our island. To date, the government has done nothing to prevent this harmless creature from being hunted.

There are many people who consider iguana soup a delicacy, and that fried iguana melts in the mouth. It is a tragedy that with so many dishes to choose from the iguana is eaten at all. Perhaps people don't realize they may be contributing to the decline of a species by serving it on their table.

A number of myths surround the shy creature, and there are those who are wrongly afraid of it, perhaps because of its appearance. The iguana is such an inoffensive animal, that it can be successfully tamed, and will eat from your hand or follow you like any other companionable pet.

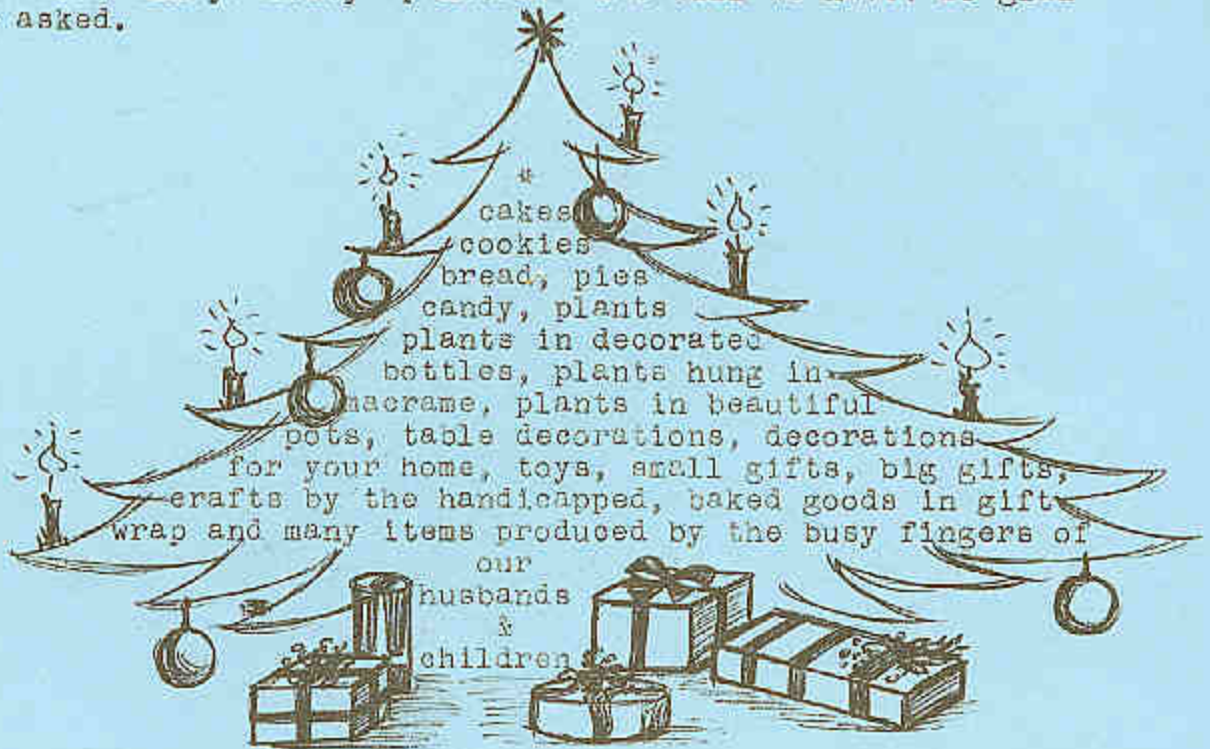
He can be fed hibiscus blossoms, young leaves, tender buds or some fruit for a change. If you find a wounded iguana, nurse it back to health, then release it, the animal will be a frequent visitor, even though it has been given back its freedom provided he is not shot by some "solid citizen" that wants to eat iguana soup that night!

Amigo di Animales
E C O L O G Y F L A S H

If you live in Seroe Colorado and feel that iguanas are a nuisance around your property, the Ecology Group will assist you in catching and relocating them. Call Vera Rooze at 9 - 3469 or Carol Rhydderch at 9 - 2347 for more information.

CHRISTKINDLESMARKT

Work on! Work on! Christkindlesmarkt is drawing nigh. On December 2 following the Christmas luncheon, Money Monster Modrow plans to tantalize your hearts and purses with a grand bazaar. Come one! Come all ye money spenders! What will we have? So glad you have asked.

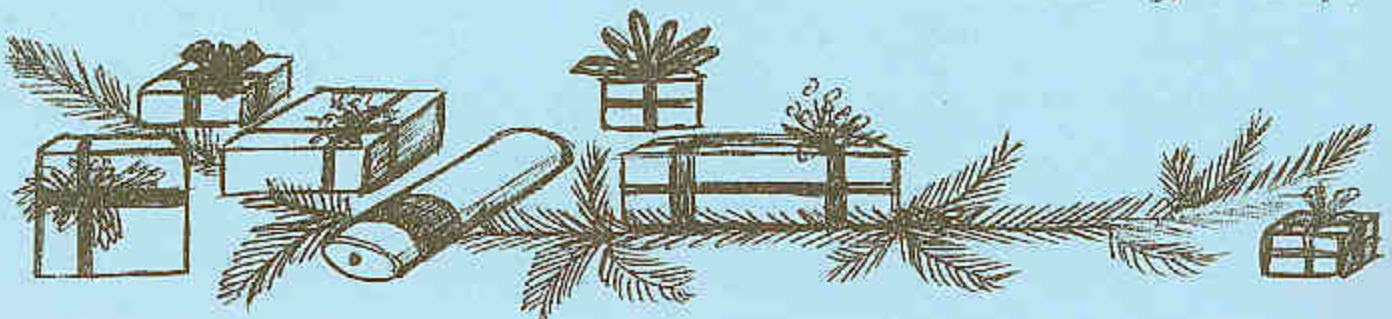


I am enjoying this bazaar. For the members it has been a way of showing and finding new talents. We've had the chance to try new recipes and improve the old ones. The projects have that personal touch of our friends because they are made with love and care. For the first time, the handicapped will be able to earn money for themselves at our bazaar. Together we are making it possible for more people to have better lives. We've met new people and have had fun too. You are beautiful and I thank you for filling ye olde moneybag. Thank you again.

A very happy Sinter Klaas and Merry Christmas to you all !

Helen Modrow

* We've taken our name from a Christmas market in Nuremberg, Germany.



Bazaar time is here! If your habit is to skim our pages, PLEASE, PLEASE read this one carefully. All our bazaar chairmen would like your articles before December 2. If you can't get your donations to them, give them a call and they will arrange a quick pick-up.

Crafts Chairmen:

Margaritha Del Valle	9-2074	(colony)
Yvette Tulloch	5761	(S.N.)
Sharon Coleman	4886	(O'stad)
Mathilda Gonzalez	2672	(O'stad)
Aura Cross	1161	(O'stad)

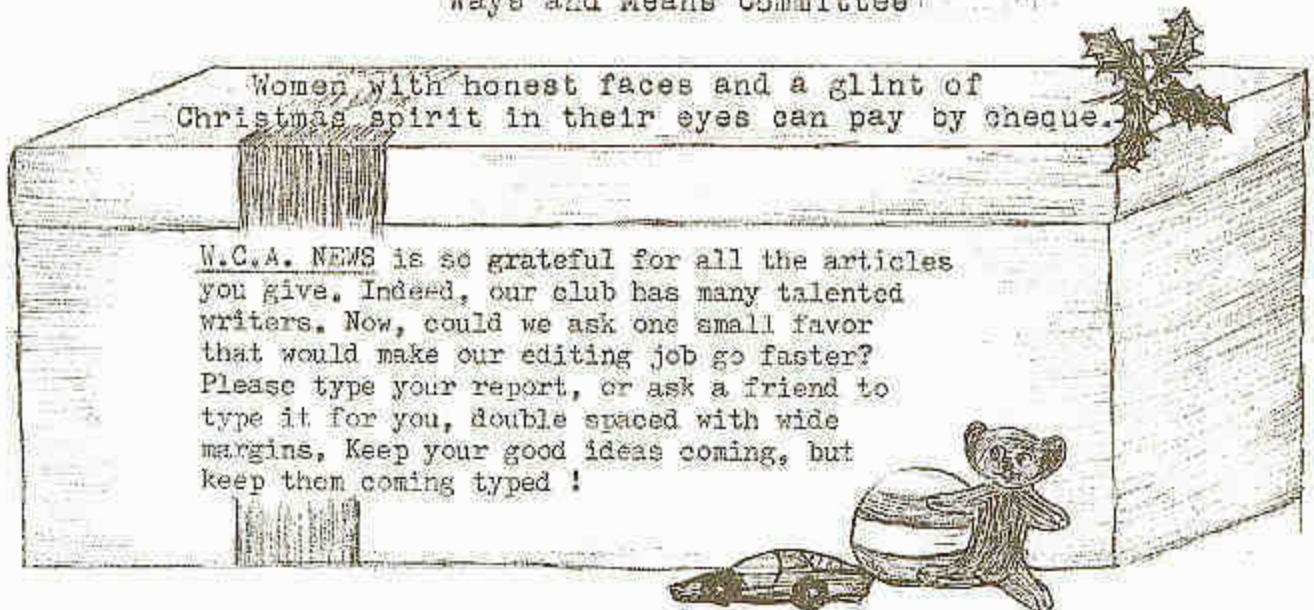
Plants: This group would like plants already potted or with good roots.

Trees Brinkman	9-3530	(colony)
Maria Marcus	6351	(S.N.)
Ana Pietersz	4430	(O'stad)
Liesbeth V/D Vels	2537	(O'stad)
Tina De L'Isle	3746	(O'stad)

Baked Goods: Bring baked goods the day before or early on Dec. 2 morning to these women or to the Americana before the meeting starts.

Aida Briezen	9-3659	(colony)
Anke Marks	9-3548	(colony)
Sharon Coleman	4886	(O'stad)
Tina De L'Isle	3746	(O'stad)
Ninita Lacle	1968	(O'stad)

Ways and Means Committee



Christmas Programs from the Welfare Committee.

Remember the old saying "Good things come in threes!" This year we plan to have three programs;

1. Casa Cuna; December 16, 10 a.m.
2. The San Pedro Hospital; December 18, 10a.m. and 8p.m.
3. Maris Stells; December 19, 3p.m.

It is going to be a big job to do all these programs in such a short time, and we shall depend on your help as a volunteer.

You can do many things to help out during the programs (or programs) . . . bake a cake, or some cookies to give some tummies a Christmas feeling, or make some decorations for the rooms in the hospital or Casa Cuna. There is work for everyone with a good pair of hands. We can use you in many different ways.

<p>Those of you that want to help out by giving the kids of Casa Cuna a nice Christmas feeling and a memorable day, please contact Louise Hodge tel. 2296 and tell her in what way you can or want to help.</p>	<p>The ladies that want to give a hand for the Christmas party in the hospital please contact Iona Richardson tel. 2423.</p>
---	--

We have two parties at the hospital.

1. In the morning for the old people and children starting at 10 a.m.
2. In the evening at 8 p.m. for all the other wards at the hospital.

Since we have no choir this year, we have found the Tropical Quartet (a quartet of visually handicapped men) willing to help us out and will play Christmas songs both morning and evening in the hospital.

The staff of the hospital prefers to provide the patients with drinks and food. No baked goods of any kind or beverages need be brought by our members. In that way they can be sure all dietary requirements can be honored. For example, it would be cruel to give a nice piece

of cake to a boy if his neighbor is on a restricted diet because of diabetes or if he is not allowed anything because of being scheduled for surgery. We will just provide music, decorations, and presents.

Casa Cuna. Here we will try to create a real Christmas atmosphere with decorations, recordings of Christmas music, games and toys.

We really would like some pretty Christmas cakes, cupcakes and cookies. The children will love them and I know we have so many members that are fabulous at baking and decorating. We count on your help!

Marie Stella, is pretty well organized already. They do have many promised cakes and beverages and help, but you never know when more will be needed. If you want to help, contact:

Mosa Whitfield tel. 1384 home

tel. 4031 business

Old members and new members we need your helping hands!!

Welfare Chairman.

Children's Clothes Needed!

Casa Cuna and Te Aworo need clothes for boys and girls, age 1 month to 6 years old. Both institutions provide clothes during the period that the children are there. That way they spare the few clothes the children own themselves. If the children are in need, they are given clothes to wear at home.

Since there is no government subsidy, the continuation of this assistance depends on donations.

So, if you have any good clothes at home that your children have outgrown or you have no use for them anymore, please contact Edith Lo A Njoe 7436 and we will come to fetch them and deliver them to either Casa Cuna or Te Aworo.

We hope to get your fullest support.

Thank you,

Welfare Chairman

Environment Group Report ...

(Limpi and Ecology)

On October 31, One hundred and one 5th and 6th graders from Christus Koningschool and Michaelschool received a Women's Club certificate after completing an ecological week. The students made some very nice posters, essays and recycled art objects. Our thanks to the teachers and to the ladies who worked hard to make this school program a success: Helma Smalt, Riet Kock, Annemiek Kock, Jeop de Quack, Els Waasdorp, Mieke Verheyen and Vera Rooze. Buses for the excursion were graciously supplied by the Department of Education.

On October 14, representatives from our group (Helma, Annemiek and Vera) held a meeting with a number of teachers representing various schools on the Island. We found that the MAVO, HAVO and VWO curriculums do include some concepts of ecology. However, in the grade schools and in the teachers' college (APA) the subject is completely ignored. The teachers felt that in order to be effective, environmental education should start at a very early age. They recommended that we ask the government to organize an environmental course for the teachers (such as is currently given in Curacao) and to establish an advisory environmental committee. Meanwhile our school programs do fill a definite need.

It was suggested that we make our background notes available to all the grade school teachers. Another possibility was supplementing the existing grade school science books with notes on environmental problems and conservation wherever appropriate, (unfortunately, nobody volunteered to do the writing).

On November 3 a slideshow about the need for conservation of the reefs was held for a group of thirteen scuba divers currently being trained by Mr. Barros.

Our next school program will be held at the Prinses Christine school in San Nicolas during the week of November 24,

Vera Rooze

CORRECTIONS:

- 1) During the ecology conference in Bonaire our representatives received films from Dr. E Towle (Virgin Islands Resources Foundation) and from Dr. H. de Kruyf (CARMABI) for our use in our school program.
- 2) Helma Smalt received her education in Holland and not in Curacao.

V.R.

Late in October the weekly newspaper TEMPO published a very nice article about our environmental group. We sincerely thank the staff for their interest.

Bonbini

Nicomeda de Cuba

Except for vacations in Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico and Disney World, Nicomeda de Cuba has spent all her years in Aruba, where she was born.

She likes to cook. (Her pastechies are the best.)

She reads a lot and is fond of all sports.

She and her husband, Patricio, who works for Lago, live in Savaneta with their three children ages 16, 13 and 11 years.

Her motives for joining the W.C. are her interest in working with different organizations and meeting and helping people.

Her phone number is 5727.

Welcome!

June Collins

We extend a warm welcome to the Collins who have come to live on Aruba from New Jersey. Of their family of three girls and a boy only Jeanne is at present with them, the others attend school in the United States. June, a psychology major who has done some social work, has devoted much of her time in the last five years to training with The Rescue Squad. This is an organization set up to provide emergency care to accident victims of all sorts. Medical and first aid training is needed, and these dedicated Rescue Squad members are available at a moment's notice to help in any emergency. June's other interests lie in the fields of art appreciation and needlepoint.

The Collins home for the present is Bungalow 1511, Serree Colorado telephone 9-2531.

Stella Alleyne

She misses living in Curacao, but Stella Alleyne is happy to join our Women's Club here. A valuable addition she is.

For 10 years she worked as a secretary in the government offices, Wescar N.V., and Mits Curacao N.V. Since she really likes typing, we have already put her to work handling the Ecology Committee's certificates.

Husband Joe works for Lago, and they have two sons, Arthur, 10, and John, 13.

Stella speaks 4 languages, enjoys cooking and learning new handicrafts.

Her phone number is 9-3295.

Lucy Hernandez

Lucy Hernandez born in Aruba, returned last May. For the past three years she had held the position of executive secretary in the Aruba Tourist Office in Caracas. Currently she assists her husband, Dr. Johnny Hernandez, a dentist now practising at Pos Chiquito 47. Lucy's hobby is reading, and she also enjoys making Christmas decorations. She is eager to contribute to the Club by typing and volunteer driving.

Welcome back, Lucy, and welcome aboard!

Call her at 7791.

B CHRISTMAS



Z
A
A
R and ...

LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 2
Americana Hotel, Stellaris Room
Doors open at 11 a.m.
Luncheon - 12:15 Cost: Fls. 13.50

MENU

Macédoine of Fruits Curaçao
Cream Soup Princessaa
Veal Cordon B en
Vegetables
Coupe Denmark
Coffee

Predinner drinks - Fls. 2.00 at the cash bar

Music and Christmas Carols by:

Ruben Lobo of the Americana Hotel and Casino Orchestra

Christmas Thoughts:

The WCA Trio

Christmas Bazaar:

1:30 p.m.

Tickets Available: Quita Croes - Bata Shoe Store S.N. 5538
Aura's Beauty Shop 1161
Norma Goeting - Joyeria Vasques 2023
Trees Brinkman 9-3530
Anke Marks 9-3548
Palmira Ponson 2150

Deadline: Saturday, November 30.

Please turn in your contributions to the Bazaar by December 1.

A request has been received by our willing workers taking luncheon reservations. When you purchase tickets for the luncheon, please bring exact change. These ladies are not equipped to handle large bills.

"A Letter From Te Aworo"

Mrs. Van Strien requested me to give an overall picture of the foundation and objectives of the children's home "Te Aworo" for those members who are not acquainted with our situation.

"Te Aworo" is not only a farewell salute, but in Aruba it is also the name of the children's home situated at the outskirts of San Nicolaas. The main objective of this home is to maintain the contact between child and its own surroundings, especially with the mother, as much as possible. That's why the place is called "Te Aworo" - "till later".

We started in 1962. The place is first a home for children with working mothers; the kids can be dropped there in the morning and picked up in the evening. The normal charge is Fls. 3.00 per day. If the aforementioned amount cannot be paid, an investigation will be made to determine if a lower rate can be fixed.

In the morning when the children come in, sometimes at seven o'clock, they change, and in the evening they are bathed and dressed in the same clothes they arrived in.

Children between four and six years attend Kindergarten and get a hot meal at lunch. Once school is over they return, and play together or are kept entertained until their parents come to pick them up, which for the child is a happy reunion.

Outline of Working Methods

If we should describe the methods followed in Te Aworo, we must distinguish between two different programmes, i.e.

- full day stay
- part-time stay, which in future we will refer to as "nursery".

Full day stay

Age: 0 to 6 years

Reason for stay: mother has to work during the day to support family.

Hours: Monday till Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. all year round, except for 12 days, when the entire staff is on leave and the day facilities are closed.

The following meals are served:

- 10:00 - snack
- 11:30 - lunch (hot)
- 15:30 - fruit
- 16:00 - sandwiches

Educational and Entertainment programme comprises:

- play - individual and team
- song
- how to learn to handle materials
- walks, etc.

Nursery

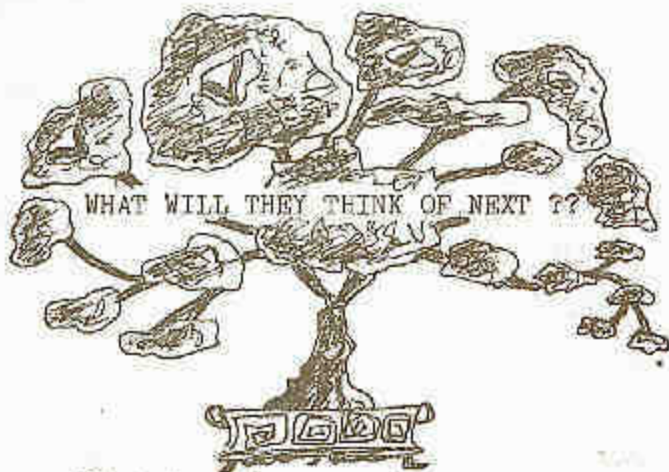
Age: 2 to 4 years. The children have to be trained. Reason for stay: 1. Mothers have to work during morning hours. or 2. Child is alone with mother and does not get the opportunity to get to know other children.

Hours: Monday till Friday from 8 to 12. Most children do not attend every day. During school vacation we are not open.

Meals: These children have to take their own snacks with them. No meals are served. Educational and entertainment programme: same as in full day stay. The charge is Fls. 1.50 per morning.

We would like to thank you again for the gift.

Sister Gemma



Miniature Trees.

Dwarfing trees, practiced in Japan for the last 800 years, has become increasingly popular in the United States in the last 15 years. A Bonsai tree, one that has undergone the miniaturizing process, can be trained to grow as little as two feet in 300 years. Some Bonsai are 500 years old.

As a Bicentennial gift to the United States, Japan sent 53 choice specimens last spring. The plants which must remain in quarantine until next spring to be checked for any potential insect pests or diseases will go on display in Washington in the spring of 1976.

Pine trees are the most favored for Bonsai, and included in the gift from Japan are a five-foot, 270 year old red pine and a 350 year old white pine which belonged to the Japanese royal family.

The deciduous trees, ones which show seasonal changes, are considered the most elegant. Therefore, the maple, elm, cherry, cedar, cypress, and even the weeping willow are all possibilities for becoming miniature trees.

Education Committee ...

After our successful television program of last month we handed out our names, addresses and available time to several of the school counselors for the benefit of the students and their parents.

We are still working on our questionnaire for the businessmen, hoping to get information about their future needs in regard to well-trained personnel; we hope to have finished this in two months time. In the meantime we are also trying to get a brochure out regarding study-possibilities in the Netherlands Antilles after MAVO.

Parents remember: after November 10 you can apply for scholarships from the Federal Government at the Department of Education, Itrausquinplein, over the Post-office.

Ans Visser

S.G. TREASURER'S REPORT

Savings Account	Fls. 2,229.27	Charity	Fls. 1,933.49
Petty Cash	22.00	Limpi	844.82
Current Account	7,511.47	Club	6,984.43
	Fls. 9,762.74		Fls. 9,762.74

Fins Fls. 276.21

Clarita Arends

Food for Thought-----

Indispensable?

Sometime, when you are feeling important,
Sometime, when your ego is in bloom,
Sometime, when you take it for granted
You're the best qualified in the room.
Sometime, when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow this simple instruction,
And see how it humbles your soul;
Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hand in it up to the wrist;
Pull it out: and the hole that's remaining,
Is a measure of how you'll be missed,
You may splash all you please when you enter,
You can stir up the water galore,
But stop and you'll find in a minute,
That it looks quite the same as before,
The moral in this quaint example,
Is "Do just the best that you can",
Be proud of yourself - - but remember,
There's no indispensable man.

Author unknown.

Te Aworo

Although a little late, I would like to inform you about the visit Quita Croes, Edith Lo-A-Njee and myself made to Te Aworo to hand over the check to Sister Gemma for the baby screens.

It was a very nice visit. Te Aworo is a pleasant, clean and happy place for the little ones. All of them really were enjoying themselves while we were there. The building is in rather good condition (except for the screens!) and the children have a lovely playground. Sister Gemma is being assisted by some young Aruban girls who are learning from her to work with the children. They are doing a nice job. We hope Te Aworo will operate for many years more.

Welfare Chairman

P.S. Since I am a little late writing this report, I had in the meantime a nice thank you letter from Sister Gemma for the check for the baby screens.

Aruba

Christmas - 1900

December was a festive, busy, glorious month in Aruba in the early 1900's. Days of hard work, laughter, fasting, and feasting were spent in anticipation of "Pascu", Christ's Birthday. As the birthday of Sint Nicholaas (the Dutch Santa) or Sinter Klaas as he is called in Papiamentu, fall on the 6th of December, preparations were well underway by the beginning of the month. According to their financial situation, giftbearing persons would go from house to house wearing masks. Mysterious gifts would appear, thrown in doors or windows. Such gifts could be very practical or funny. Among the surprises could be cornmeal, peanuts, either green for boiling, or ground for preparation of beverages, cucumber (pepino) and legs of mutton.

Following a hellish noise outside, a friend could find, probably in the kitchen, a box or sack containing provisions, a joke, or possibly a small relative popping out in glee. Hilarity was endless and favorite incidents are still recounted year after year.

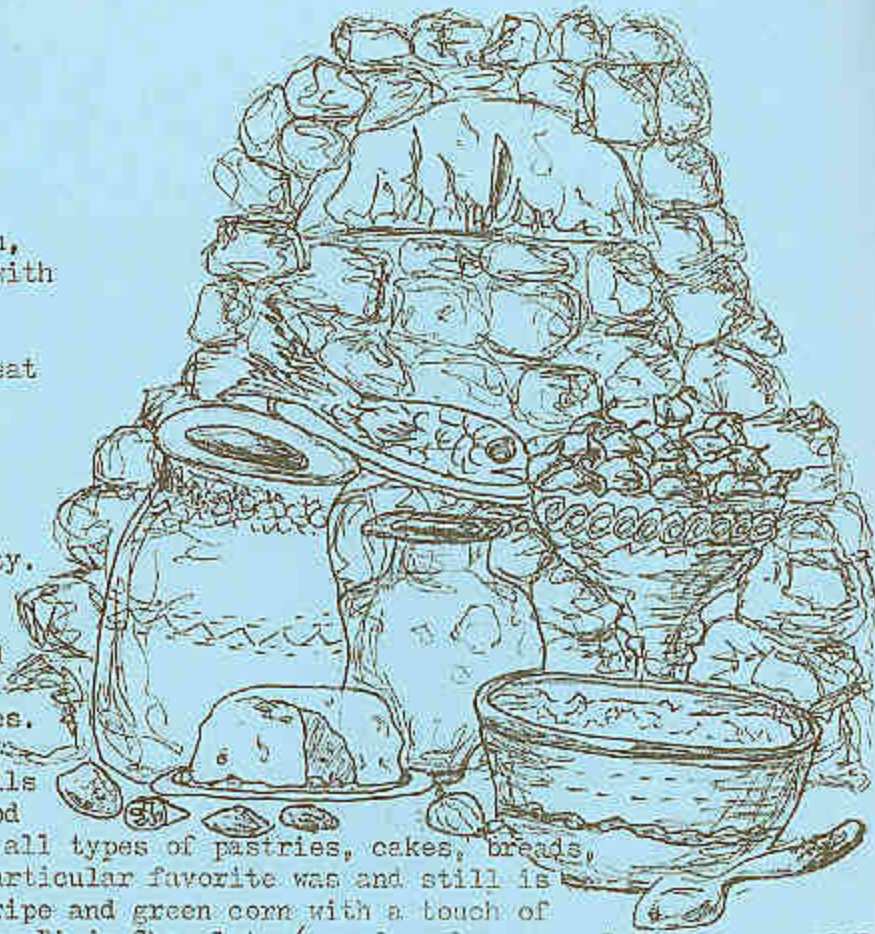


Following Sint Nicholaas, gift giving ended, and serious preparations were started for the holidays. Everything and everybody must sparkle inside and outside for the coming Pascu. The house, yard and cumucu were completely overhauled. Fresh whitewash was applied to the walls, trim painted, new bedspreads and table cloths crocheted or woven, and curtains sewn. Set up in the honored place in the home was the "pasebre" or manger scene, Christmas trees were unknown.

And so, the people too must be ready for Christmas. Along with the very important complete new outfits for each member of the family, new bonnets and dresses for the women and children, new shirts, pants and shoes for the men. The soul, too, must be prepared. On December 16 "Aurora" began. Services with prayers and hymn singing were held at 5 a.m. in the churches. A favorite hymn heralding Christmas was "Muy Preato Veremos". The whole family would rise early, arriving in the dark at the "Misa". After services they would greet each other gaily and walk homeward in large groups, socializing and planning preparations for the coming festivities.

The women in the families would gather together to prepare food for the holidays. The best goat, sheep or pig had been set aside long ago for fattening, along with fowl and turkey. Meats, especially mutton, were the basic ingredient for most of the dishes.

Since there was no refrigeration, most meat was cured or smoked, with salt being used as the chief preservative. The now scarce "salon" or salted goat was a great delicacy. Sangre Yena (black pudding), Suls (pork) and skafechi (fish) in vinegar, Ayacas (stewed meat and chicken wrapped in cornmeal and banana leaves) were prepared in quantity. In the Fogon or open chimney still to be found in old cunucu houses, two or three fires would be built between three rocks, each pan balanced over the flames. Brick ovens, built in the yard of fire bricks with various grills or rock shelves, fueled with wood or coal, worked overtime making all types of pastries, cakes, breads, sweet breads and candies. One particular favorite was and still is "boyo", a heavy cake made with ripe and green corn with a touch of coconut. Conventional drinks were Pinda Chocolate (named so because of its similarity to hot chocolate but made with ground peanuts or cashews, hot milk and sugar). Anisette, and punchi creme were all home made liqueurs. Sweet wines, rum and gin were also used.



Christmas formally began with church services at 4 a.m. Churches and church yards would be filled to overflowing, and after church services each participant would greet one and all outside with "Bon Pascu" and so the festivities of Christmas Day began.

First a family would gather for feasting at the parents or grandparents home, and then visiting from house to house began. Grandparents, Godparents, parents, sisters and brothers, relatives from far and near, neighbors and friends, all must be visited, a drink taken, cake or a snack eaten, and then on to the next. Each such visit must be reciprocated. This rollicking, roving party continued for Christmas and Boxing Day. This is a glimpse of Christmas in Aruba in the Good Old Days, and most of these customs still prevail.

Aura Groes