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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Greetings Friends,

In a few short weeks we will be saying good-bye to 2007. This is always a good time to reflect on the events of the past year. I kid Jan that ours was the “party reign”; beginning with the membership gathering back in February and now ending with our Holiday Party last weekend. Book ended between these two events were celebrations, farewells, pregnancies, good books read, necklaces made, cruises taken, tons of kids’ events and of course more parties. Jan and I have thoroughly loved being your co-presidents. It has been an honor to organize and lead this amazing body of people. We want to extend a special thank you to the governing board that individually brought their own ideas and talent to the mix. Nothing would happen without these hard working people. We are also pleased to announce that we leave you all in good hands. The 2008 IFA Board has been elected and is eager to start a new year. Thank you again for your support and assistance. It has been an honor to serve you.

Regards,

Diana Hernandez Barefield

Jan Allen

2008 IFA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Congratulations to your new 2008 IFA Executive Board! The officers were elected at the annual election meeting last week. A quorum of the membership was present and voted in the following:

President - **Meredith Lauria**
First Vice President - **Clelia Douglas**
Second Vice President - **Joy Piron**
Vice President of Membership - **Melissa Mettler Cavan**
Treasurer - **Robin Smith**
Secretary - **Ann Derrickson**

Thank you, ladies, for stepping forward! We are looking ahead to a "GREAT 2008"!!

December 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, **December 12**

At the home of
Ann Derrickson

10:00-10:30 Social Time

10:30-11:00 Meeting

11:00-12:00 Social Time

Come for Mimosas! Come for the gift exchange! Come for the cookie exchange! Just DON'T miss this gathering! There will be a fond farewell to the 2007 Executive Board Members and a warm welcome to the new 2008 Board.

Gift Exchange: Kindly bring a wrapped holiday gift costing no more than \$20(U.S.) to exchange with a member.

Cookie Exchange: If you'd like to participate in a cookie exchange, bring a dozen or more homemade holiday treats (cookies, brownies, candies) to exchange with the attendees. Note: please be creative with your treats selection. No store bought cookies please.

November Birthdays

- 5 - Emma Gelvatti
- 11 - Vincente Hennep
- 12 - Danielle Keeven
- 17 - Sara Jackson
- 17 - Bruce Jackson
- 23 - Joshua Piron
- 25 - Molly Schettewi
- 26 - Chris Wanek

December Birthdays

- 3 - John Nicolas "NICO" Barefield
- 4 - Meredith Lauria
- 6 - Kanzis Keith
- 12 - Ian Barrow
- 13 - Andre Jackson
- 13 - Valentyn Van Der Sloot
- 17 - Steve Keith
- 18 - Diana Barefield
- 22 - Mashelle Zeolla
- 25 - Luke Keeven
- 26 - Cindy Cameron
- 27 - Kami Piron
- 28 - Mary Oxley
- 30 - Prakash Gupta
- 31 - Peter Audette

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

New Members

This month we are welcoming **Margarita & Steve Krichevsky**. They have three children, **Chris, Sabrina & Gabriella** and just moved here from Milan, Italy.

They just couldn't stay away from IFA. Returning members, **Tina & Hector Escobedo**.

John Woolsey just relocated and is working at the Marriott as their new marketing director. His family will be joining him after the first of the year.

Welcome to our IFA family!

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

Farewell

We offer a sad farewell to our dear friend **Tara Sutthoff** and her darling daughters, **Megan and Annie**. Tara is heading back to England after a 12-year stint here in Aruba. Tara has been our nutritional and yoga guru who brought so much to this group. As a tribute to her adopted island and to her passion for yoga, Tara has filmed a yoga DVD. The DVD is available for purchase at Prana Yoga Center or check out their website, www.prana.aw
We wish you all the best Tara.

Events

IFA BOOK CLUB MEMBERS

PLEASE NOTE: This I Believe: Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women by Jay Allison (paperback) This book will be discussed at a book club meeting in mid-January. Plan to write down your own personal philosophy to share with the group when we meet.

Online Voting will take place this week for the January- June 2008 books. Watch your email! The winners will be announced right away so you can purchase them while on holiday.

EXTRA News!

House for RENT

Tarabana Residence (Oranjestad), it has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and a guest apartment w/kitchenette and bathroom. The price is US\$ 1300. If you are interested contact: Monica 5946404/5869247

Charming Cunucu House for Rent

100 years old, in Sabana Liber, Noord. Very cute house on a lot 1,000 sq.m2 lot, home 250-m2. Completely empty. Air-conditioned bedrooms. Has a BIG mango tree. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, refurbished kitchen, living room, office, dining room, deck, garden fully fenced, perfect for a dogs/cats, carport. The enclosed porch is a studio apartment where the caretaker lives. Price open for discussion for right tenant. Available long/short term. Call Rona Coster 297 593 1774 (See Picture below!)

Washer and Dryer for Sale

Whirlpool Washer & Gas Dryer For Sale (white)
Less than two years old; still under warranty
1,450 Florin
Please call or email Meredith Lauria @ 746-4336
or lauriaruba@yahoo.com

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, or Diana, dianabarefield@yahoo.com, if you have a similar need. We are compiling a list of foods/products and then will meet with the storeowners.

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).
- The orphanage Imeldahof, Dynia Mulleris the director, 587-6085, imeldahofaruba@setarnet.aw

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

Seen & Heard

- A big Thank you to **May Squire** for hosting our November IFA monthly meeting. May and Bob's home has the best view of the island I have ever seen. Thanks for your hospitality.
- A shout out to **Mayra Lageveen** for hosting our November Book Club meeting. Everyone had a wonderful time discussing the book but I think everyone was really excited about the delicious chocolate fondue!
- I was one of the privileged to attend the October Cook n' Taste at **Joy and Steven Piron's** home. We were treated to a great Louisiana cuisine dinner and then followed it up with a great game of Bunko! If you haven't played before, it is a fun way to eat, drink, and socialize while rolling dice!
- **Monica and Joel Mills** out did themselves again with the children's Halloween party. Thank you both for hosting a wonderful get-together for the children. It was fun seeing the children play games I played as a child. My favorite things though were the caramel apples.
- GHOSTS & GOBLINS, GOONS & GHOULS...Thanks to **Diana & Wade Barefield** we had it all. A wonderful Halloween party they hosted at their home with good food, good drink and great company! We appreciate all of your effort and hard work to make this Hallows Eve so Special!
- Thank you **Melissa Cavan** for being our official Happy Hour Organizer. Everyone has had a great time getting together for a drink and some downtime after a hectic week. Contact Melissa now if you have an idea for our next Happy Hour gathering. Melissa can be reached at 561-2961 or email Melissa at globalspa@hotmail.com

- IFA member **Anna Buriakova** is giving waltz and tango classes! Make a New Year's resolution to start dancing! Club di Movimento offers a Waltz and Tango class once a week from 7.00 pm to 8.00pm. Please join as a couple. Price is- Afl 62.85 p. p. per month
Registration fee Afl 35.00 p.p. For further information please call: 587 34 13, or pas by Club di Movimento Bubali 76-B. Call Anna with any questions at 5681644 or 5886780.
- Also, IF ANYONE HAS PICTURES of the Halloween Party or the Holiday Party or any other recent IFA events, PLEASE forward them to SCAN@setarnet.aw so we can include them on the website!
Thank you!

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.

Co-President	Jan Allen	arubajan05@aol.com
Co-President	Diana Barefield	dianabarefield@yahoo.com
Membership V.P.	Meredith Lauria	lauriaruba@yahoo.com
Secretary	Reagen Brenner	reagenbrenner@hotmail.com
	Melissa Stedeford	mstedeford@digicel.blackberry.com
Treasurer	Clelia Douglas	cleliadouglas@setarnet.aw
Web Site	Sofie Slegers	scan@setarnet.aw