

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear International Friends,

As President of IFA I hope to continue the events in 2008, as well as get new ideas and new friendships from our group. When I first arrived in Aruba in 2005, I felt somewhat lost and very far away from what I knew as my life. I could no longer work, had a small child to care for and needed to make new friends. IFA was then and still is a great way to meet people from all over the world, teach the ways of the island and to be involved in something that matters. I hope that 2008 will be a fun year, a year that people will look back on with great happiness and hope for the new of years to come.

All the Best,

Meredith Lauria

## February 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, **February 27th**

At the home of Robin Smith

213 Paradera Park

Directions to follow in the weekly update

10:00-10:30 Social Time  
10:30-11:00 Meeting  
11:00-12:00 Social Time

## January Birthdays

3 – Melissa Stedeford  
5 – Donna Miklojcik  
10 – Shane Lauria  
16 – Rand Zeolla  
19 – Chuck Pendry  
22 – Zack Baker Allen  
25 – Monica Beaujon  
27 – Patricia Jutz  
29 – Valerie Jugo  
29 – Sandra Romanowski  
30 – Jeanette Keith

## February Birthdays

1 – Reinder Fit  
5 – Melissa Cavan  
6 – Sebastian Van Der Sloot  
13 – Joseph Miklojcik  
15 – Charlie Douglas  
15 – Paul Van Der Sloot  
18 – Olivia Zeolla  
19 – David Wade Barefield  
25 – Anastasia Van Daal  
27 – Arden MacMootry

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

## Farewell

Our 2007 Co-President, **Jan Allen** is leaving us. She and her husband Scott are moving to La Jolla, California. Jan will be missed greatly, not just as a wonderful person and caring friend to all, but as an active participant in IFA always willing to help out and host an event. Best of luck to you and your family on the west coast!

In addition, our 2007 Co-Secretary **Melissa Stedeford** is relocating with her family to Las Vegas. She, Brian, Olivia and Chloe will be taking their belongings back home in mid-February. Like Jan, Melissa dedicated much time and effort to IFA, for this and many other reasons (including great jello shots) she will be missed. All the best to you and your family!

# Events

## IFA BOOK CLUB MEMBERS

Our next Book Club will be held at Mashelle Zeolla's home on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm. Please RSVP to Mashelle @ [mashellezeolla@gmail.com](mailto:mashellezeolla@gmail.com). The book chosen is *Eat, Pray, Love* by: Elizabeth Gilbert. Directions to Mashelle's home: From O'stad to Marriott..

Turn right across from the Marriott. Go straight passed Mezi Mart and make first RIGHT. First RIGHT again and first LEFT. Our home is 3rd from the end on the right hand side. 2 story yellow, brown trim, with a vacant lot next door. Number is on the fence: BV 7B.

In addition if you are looking to purchase the next books for Book Club the following books have been chosen:

March - *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by: Lisa See

April - *Escape* by: Carolyn Jessop

May - *Kabul Beauty School* by: Deborah Rodriguez

June - *Water for Elephants* by: Sarah Gruen

SUMMER BOOK (because it is so lengthy) *Discovery of Heaven* by: Harry Mulisch

Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am: Cook N' Taste at Melinda Gobesz. She will prepare a traditional Hungarian dish. Please RSVP to her at [mtgobesz@yahoo.com](mailto:mtgobesz@yahoo.com). Her home is located at Paradera Park 235.

**Directions:** Take the 24 hr Paradera circle pass Ann's street. Continue on that road until you reach the intersection. At the intersection make a left turn. Go pass three small unpaved streets on your left & the construction site.(new homes) on your right. After you pass the new homes make a left turn onto Melinda's street **Insight Gallery** on your right. Melinda's house is the second house on your left.

Friday, February, 15<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm: Happy Hour at Moomba. Bring your kids and join you IFA friends for drinks, food and fun.

**Back by popular demand! IFA women are returning to Intermezzo Spa for a little R&R. Get those toes buffed, massaged and painted. Relax with a one hour massage or facial. We will be hosting a spa night on Tuesday, February 19th from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.**

Following are the packages available, unfortunately at this time we do not have current pricing as the spa is reevaluating them. They will follow in the next update.

massage + facial= 132,25afl (past pricing)

facial + pedi= 97,75afl (past pricing)

massage + pedi= 109,25afl (past pricing)

- treatment rooms are shared
- 14 people can participate, 2 treatments each
- PLEASE Bring a beverage or snack to share!!!

Please RSVP to Mayra Lageveen at [maroaruba@gmail.com](mailto:maroaruba@gmail.com) or by phone at 594-9110. This is a pre-paid event.



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

## **Washer and Dryer for Sale**

Whirlpool Washer & Gas Dryer For Sale (white)  
Less than two years old; still under warranty  
1,400 Florin  
Please call or email Meredith Lauria @ 746-4336  
or lauriaruba@yahoo.com

## **Dance, Dance, Dance!**

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.

## **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.

## 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](mailto: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 **Clel Douglas** for hosting our January IFA monthly meeting. Clel opened her home to us and we greatly appreciate it. Thank you for your hospitality and getting the new year off to a good start.

- January Book Club, hosted by Jan Allen at Ruinas del Mar, Hyatt was truly a treat. It was a mixture of great food, great company and great conversation. The book *This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women* edited by Jay Allison, Dan Gediman, John Gregory and Viki Merrick, invoked thought and many people shared their personal philosophies. Thank you, Jan, for hosting your final event.

## 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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