

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** February 8-22, 2013 Year 20, Issue 3  
**The REPORTER**  
**BES Island News Too**

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**Yuma, Sanne, Luca and B'Lana at the Children's Karnaval Parade - page 11**





Guardian photo

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Netherlands' Queen Beatrix announced that she is ending her reign after 33 years and passing the crown to her eldest son,** who has long been groomed to be king but who will have to work hard to match his mother's popularity.

The widely expected abdication comes at a time of debate over the future of the largely ceremonial Dutch monarchy, but also as calm has descended upon the Netherlands after a decade of turmoil that saw Beatrix act as the glue that held together an increasingly divided society.

The queen, who turned 75 last Thursday, said she will step down from the throne on April 30. That same day, her eldest son, Willem-Alexander, will be appointed king at an inauguration in Amsterdam. He will be the Netherlands' first king since Willem III died in 1890.

Willem-Alexander is a 45-year-old father of three young daughters, an International Olympic Committee member, a pilot, a water management expert and anonymously as a runner in the New York Marathon.

Over the years, he has struggled to win the affection of this nation of 16 million, but his immensely popular wife, the Argentine-born Maxima, has helped him gain more acceptance ever since she brushed away a tear during their wedding in 2002.

They are a hard-working couple: Willem-Alexander regularly gives speeches at water conferences, sharing his low-lying nation's centuries of experience battling to stay dry, while soon-to-be Queen Maxima, a former investment banker, has carved out a career as a microfinance expert. Also see story on page 17.

► **The date of April 30 for the succession was logical because it's Queen's Day,** already a public holiday. It was the birthday of Beatrix's mother Juliana that Beatrix maintained for the annual "orange" celebrations after ascending to the throne, even though she herself was born on January 31. Besides, she also had succeeded Juliana on April 30, 1980. **Bonaire celebrates Rincon Day also on April 30.**

Since Willem Alexander's birthday is actually April 27, expectations are that the holiday will now be moved ahead by three days and probably be called "King's Day" starting in 2014.

► **Dutch Minister Schippers of Health, Welfare and Sport (minister van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport, VWS), has decided to postpone the initial effective date of the cuts in dentistry and physiotherapy treatment to July 1, 2013.** These measures caused a lot of concern on the islands. Dentists and therapists are trying to have the cuts reversed, but the minister is remaining firm in her cuts.

► **Bonaire's Commissioner of Economy and Finance, Burney El Hage, met with Dutch Minister Plasterk,** responsible for relations with the BES

Islands, during his visit to Bonaire on 25 and 26 January. Among other things he discussed the current difficult economic situation and challenges the island faces.

El Hage said it is now very crucial and urgent to invest in a program of the integrated community development (poverty reduction), the construction of a new (container) port, and programs for education and rehabilitation of the road network. He expressed concern about the declining purchasing power and health care.

► **The latest government figures support feelings that it's costing more to live on Bonaire. Inflation on Bonaire rose to 2.7% in the fourth quarter of 2012.** This is 0.4% higher than in the third quarter. In the third quarter consumer prices were 2.3% higher than in the third quarter of 2011. On St Eustatius inflation remained unchanged at 4.6%. On Saba it fell from 3.0 to 2.4%.

Electricity and water prices pushed inflation up on Bonaire. Food prices had a downward effect on inflation.

► **Thanks to the efforts of dozens of local residents and business owners, the brothel that was reported as open has had its permit denied.** While many folks here understand that this type of enterprise has its place, they just did not want it in a residential/tourism/commercial neighborhood. Apparently they were operating illegally but are now subject to arrest if they continue. (Mike Gaynor report)

► Every year on the last Saturday of January the **Annual Lora Count** is organized by the Department of Environment and Nature, STINAPA Bonaire, Echo Foundation and *Fundashon Salba Nos Lora*. This year during the



18<sup>th</sup> Lora count a total of **865 Loros** were counted. This is the highest number ever recorded. Inside Washington Slagbaai Park 150 Loros were seen and outside the park 715 were counted.

The Lora count only gives a general idea of the number of parrots on the island. In 2010, around 800 Loros were counted. The present figure is thus a confirmation of this number and indicates that the amount is stable and slightly increasing. The actual number of Loros is greater.

(Peter Montanus report)



Pepper spray in use

► **As of February 1<sup>st</sup>, the police officers of the Dutch Caribbean Police Force were equipped with pepper spray.** The members of the Royal Military Police (*Marechaussee*) will also be given the pepper spray soon.

The police officers have already been trained to use this new weapon and also the police cars and police station have been equipped with the material for the after care (cool water to rinse the eyes).

It has been reported that people who have been sprayed got injured or died. However, the cause was never the pepper spray itself, but incorrectly applied control techniques or by accidents after (not) applying aftercare. Pepper spray can be used -only by police officers- against a person who carries a ready-for-use weapon and who will use it. A weapon, in this case, can even be a stick or a stone.

It is also permitted to use pepper spray on a person who refuses to be arrested or to be brought before the law. As a third option, the police officers can use it to defend themselves against or to control aggressive animals. Pepper spray will not be used against young children, women who are visibly pregnant, people with visual impairment, or elderly persons. If conditions permit, the officer will first give a clear verbal warning before using the pepper spray against a person.

► **The wastewater treatment plant in the plantation Aruba**

**area has to date purified about 100 million liters of water.** That is 20 times as much as the content of the two large fuel tanks at the airport. The treatment plant has been in operation since mid-2011.

The wastewater treatment plant is the first of the two public sewage plants and processes water from the tank trucks. The second plant, for sewer system wastewater, is almost finished. The first connections to the sewer system are scheduled this month for the Hato area.

In the past, the discharged, untreated, wastewater was dumped into trenches not far from the spot where the plant is now built. That polluting and unhygienic practice has come to an end. At full load, the plant removes 350 kg of organic solids, 74 kg of nitrogen and 65 kg of phosphate every day.

► **The Colegio San Bernardo primary school will be completely renewed.** A new roof, windows and doors will be installed, the lavatories will be upgraded and renovated. The buildings will be equipped with new air conditioning installations with fresh air and CO<sub>2</sub> meters. In addition, new landscaping will be done and the school fence will be renewed. The renovation is expected to last through 2013.

► **On January 23 the Bonaire Museum had a "soft opening" at the former Kas di Arte.** The site is historic, being the island's original slave hospital. The old museum location will be extensively renovated. At the opening interim Department of Culture manager Liliane de Geus spoke of the plans and future of the museum. Also speaking were the Director of Community care Rosa Hoes, and Commissioner of Culture Sylvana Serfilia.

► **Sailor Jan Frederik Wüstenhoff has been missing since 22 December 2012.** He departed his last port of call, Santa Marta, Colombia, on 22 December 2012, for Aruba. He never arrived.

Frederik's family and friends are understandably very concerned and are asking fellow sailors to assist in the search for Frederik, who is now officially a "missing person." In Aruba the Rescue and Coordination Centre of the local coastguard has been alerted and it is hoped they are contacting the coastguards of the surrounding countries to try and find out any information about his yacht *Jeri*.

If anyone can assist with advice or tips for the family to aid in their search, please contact them via their website <http://frederik-wustenhoff-vermist.anna-karina.nl>.

**Name of the boat: JERI, Flag: Dutch, Jeanneau Sun Rise 35,**

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### How to contact us

**Find Bonaire Reporter on Facebook. Press "Like"**

**Letters to the Editor:**  
Reporter@bonairenews.com

**Story tip or idea:**  
info@bonairenews.com

**The Publisher:**  
George@bonairenews.com

Box 407, Bonaire,  
Dutch Caribbean  
Phone 786-6125, 786-6518  
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**10.5 m. long, 1988 (Jeanneau 34)  
(bounnr.) 35189**

► **No one thinks damaging coral is sexy,** but researchers from the University at Buffalo just made it official. Turns out, coral sex is dampened after injury from storms and human activity.

Their study shows that while coral adapts to injury events by initially growing back rapidly, reproduction rates are suppressed for up to four years after initial injury.

The findings have implications for future coral health. While researchers had previously thought coral rebounded heartily after injury events, such as those incurred from hurri-

(Continued on page 4)



# Priority Change Needed



**T**he Reporter has always been a champion for nature and the environment, but right now there's something so big on Bonaire that it totally overshadows nature. It's the poverty of the people that has taken over like an all encompassing black cloud since 10-10-10. Things are so bad that thieves are breaking into houses, not to steal laptops or TVs; they're taking food from the cupboards and the refrigerators. People are asking the Animal Shelter to give them the out-of-date food that the Shelter receives from local markets for the animals. And since the local brothal has closed we've been told that girls are selling themselves on the street. Families are being torn apart and children are suffering. (See Greta Kooistra's article, Child Welfare and Family on page 6.)

Right after 10-10-10 the Dutch had allocated 10 million euros for nature. But with the new government it's now 6 million euros (1.5 for Statia and Saba), called *Natuur-gelden BES*.

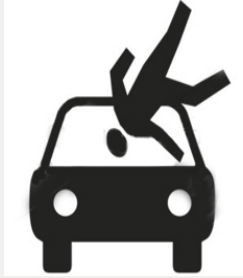
The Democratic (red) Party, led by Robbie Beukenboom, thinks this is good but the party feels that the money could be better used by putting it towards helping the people right now, bringing down the cost of living because poverty has become such a big issue. (A member of another party felt the money should be used to restore Pink Beach which is private property owned by Cargill Salt.) The Democrats are putting out a petition asking that there be a proper plan to use these funds, with details on how the money will be spent. Beukenboom says, "During these difficult times that our society is passing through the Island Council, government and the private sector must come together to raise the standard of living." He asks to confirm the right of the members of the Island Council to divulge all information and correspondence relevant to the funds called *Natuur-gelden BES*. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*



Opinions expressed are those of the writer, not necessarily those of *The Reporter*

## DRIVING DANGEROUSLY

Dear Editor:  
Even after living on this island for nearly 30 years, I am still regularly shocked when I see the way people drive here.



How many times have you had a scooter swoosh by you in traffic, narrowly escaping an accident, or riding on one wheel? Cars zipping around you while there is oncoming traffic or other near misses? Why does this continually happen? When was the last time you saw a police car stopping someone for any of these dangerous driving habits? I have never seen or heard about a stop for speeding or reckless driving, only a missing tail light or no tags... When it seems the rule rather than the exception to see particularly scooters driving in a hazardous way, how will this change? This is what our kids see as normal; why would they not join the rest in learning to drive this way? Helmet or not, we are going to hear about tragedies that simply should not be allowed to happen in the first place. Enforce the basic road rules and make life safer for all. The police need to

do something and they need to be seen.

Recently a friend was hit by a car while crossing the street at the speed bump on Kaya Grandi by Mona Lisa. The car continued without stopping. A local good Samaritan who saw the accident happen chased them down and forced them to return. The police did nothing as they said it was not hit and run, they came back. When the driver explained that they did not see her nor feel that they had hit someone it was acceptable to the police. How do you not notice a person on the street while supposedly driving slowly while crossing a speed bump? Apparently they revved the engine, sped up and swerved before knocking her down at the edge of the road, breaking her arm and speeding off. Another witness reported that they were driving at least 60 km/hour on the stretch between the last two speed bumps on Kaya Grandi. Her broken arm versus their word, ...but they came back, so it is not hit and run.

Either way, it is still hit! Is there no penalty for that? Would there have been outrage if it was a child? Or if someone was killed? Or if it were a tourist instead of a local? Maybe if it was a local driver instead of a young Dutch one? Is it "only" a broken arm so it is OK? Or is it simply OK to drive irresponsibly and claim ignorance and get away with it?

Until the police enforce safe driving practices and apply our laws there will continue to be needless tragedies. If they cannot command respect on the street, how can they command respect anywhere on this island. I will not begin on crime in general as that is an entire other article! This is simply a disgrace.

*Pam Teitel - Werdeath*

*Continued on page 7*

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# Born on Bonaire... Winny Reijnen-Pourier

“I was born in Rincon. My father and mother – Marino and Juliëta Pourier – had a shop with a tremendous variety of assorted goods, they had a business in construction materials, they owned the Tropicana Bar and a movie theatre called Cine Metro. My father also had a boat and some fishermen working for him. All the businesses and our house were located on the same street in Rincon, now the Kaya L.M. Pourier. I had the most wonderful childhood. I come from a warm and cuddly nest where norms and values were much appreciated and we went to church every day. We were seven children and each one of us had a nanny to braid our hair and get us ready for school. But aside from that it was also expected that we older children would look after the younger ones and really care for them.

Poor Urba,” she laughs, “was the eldest and she always had to set a good example! When she turned 11 she had to go to Curacao to high school as there were no options for further education on Bonaire at the time. Then my brother became the eldest and two years later he moved to Curacao. So, every child got his or her turn to be the eldest except for Selly, who was the youngest. She was still in school when Urba came back, graduated, and became her school teacher!

with the nuns in Curacao, and when I was 16, I went to Holland where I studied to become a domestic science teacher. After I’d graduated my father told me, ‘You have an obligation to come back and teach the children here what you’ve been taught in Holland.’ I went to Curacao – because there was still no high school on Bonaire.

During my years in Holland I had met a boy named Jack Reijnen, who later on would become my husband. Of course living together was ‘not done,’ so he stayed in Holland while I went back to Curacao. We wrote a tremendous amount of letters and once a year I would go to visit him in Holland or Jack would come to Bonaire. I had a scholarship obligation of five years and all that time we had a long distance relationship. The benefits, however, were that I would be sure whether I wanted Jack or an Antillean man. But on the other hand I also gave Jack the chance to figure out whether he wouldn’t rather date a Dutch girl... but he didn’t... in fact,” she smiles softly, “he adored me.

When Jack was serving in the military he got involved in IT, and once he’d left the service he took a job at the Academic Hospital in Leiden, Holland, where he continued his education through training and courses. Then he studied law – something



Sra. Winnie showing a photo of her and her beloved husband Jack

Jairo lost his eye because someone threw a stone at him, and I chose to stay with my children to be there for them. Financially it was no problem because my husband had a very good job.

As I was an immigrant and my husband was a native we were also an example in the village we lived in and soon enough I was asked to join ‘Leiderdorp Aangenaam’ (Leiderdorp Enjoyable), an initiative of the municipality to bring all the people who lived in the village together to get to know each other’s cultures and habits. Then politicians got wind of it and I was approached by the Christian Democratic Party to participate in the Intercultural Council. I had to think about it because I didn’t want to be in politics, but what I did know was that the Antilleans needed a voice to speak up for them. I worked for the Intercultural Council until 2003.

If you ask me why life in Holland is hard for the majority of the Antilleans I would say that the main problem is the language and the fact that many Antilleans feel inferior. You have to be assertive and be clear in what you want without being rude. Also, you have to mix with the Dutch and other nationalities because just sticking with the other Antilleans won’t get you anywhere.

In 2003 we came to live on Bonaire and, you know, it was Jack who really wanted it. Before that, our daughter Iris had worked as an intern on Bonaire where she’d met an American. First she came back to Holland to graduate, then I sent her to the States to find out about the boy. Then, the man who’s now my son-in-law, came to Holland with the ring to ask us for the hand of our daughter. That was by the end of the 90s. We

were pretty pleased! Neat! Especially because in 1969 Jack had asked my parents for my hand in a letter written in Papiamentu, which was very much appreciated by my parents!

So, Iris lived in the US and Jairo had moved out and we came here. Jack enjoyed Bonaire for only four years. He passed away in 2007. It was totally unexpected, an aneurism. I miss him every day. I am alone in this house, but I need this place because the children need a home when they come. Iris has two sons and Jairo and his girlfriend have a little baby daughter – very cute - sweet children and of course I go and visit them whenever I feel I have to see them.

Every year I proctor exams at SGB – all health care courses. And every day I go to see my siblings. One brother and one sister have passed away and one brother lives on Aruba. I’ve got one brother and two sisters here and although my kids are not here, I do have a life. And then there is Mirna who helps me and who is a big support to me, always positive!

My old age pension comes from Holland so I am okay, but when I see the poor Bonairean people and the prices at the shops I think, ‘How in Heaven’s name are they going to make it?’ This situation is an absolute disgrace. The best thing that can happen – in my opinion – is that in 2015 we will become independent within the Kingdom just like Curacao, Aruba and St. Martin. But... that’s another story!” ■ Story & photo by Greta Kooistra



## “...you have to mix with the Dutch and other nationalities, because just to stick with the other Antilleans won’t get you anywhere.”

One of the tasks we had was to clean the kerosene lamps (we had electricity only from 6 pm until midnight) and put them on the table with the tray with the thermos flask with tea, the tea cups and cookies and cover them with a clean tea towel, so when Papi would come home at night after he’d closed the bar, he and Mami would sit there chatting and counting the money they had made that day.

Most of the time Mami was working – or she was at church – or she would pray the Rosary with us. Papi was the one who played with us. But to him every game needed to have a purpose and so all of us knew math before we went to school, and before we were five years old we already knew what a percentage was! My father and mother believed in education. They always told us ‘Knowledge is something nobody can take away from you.’ And they’ve taught us to truly love each other – not just in words – but also in deeds. I lived in Holland for 40 years and I’ve come back to Bonaire at least once a year with my husband and my children to be with my family. Just like my siblings I went to high school

very useful when you’re working for a company.

In 1970 I returned to Holland and started working at a school in the city of Utrecht. Of course we didn’t live together,” she laughs, “until we got married in 1971 and found a house in a small suburb called Leiderdorp. For me it has never been difficult to get used to life in Holland. My parents had always taught me, ‘You stick to the rules of the house you’re staying at.’ And... I’d been away from home and I’d been speaking Dutch and I was taught in Dutch ever since I was 11. Also, we were raised in a way that we knew who we were and all of us girls were good at it! Even better than the boys! Hahaha! We were all individuals and I never felt less than anybody else.” She laughs. “In the back of my mind I always thought, ‘if I don’t like it I’ll go back to Bonaire!’ Needless to say I am very grateful for the family that I was born into!

I worked as a teacher until my first child – my little daughter Iris - was born. Then I became a stay-at-home mom. When I had my son Jairo I thought ‘I’ll go back to teaching once he’s old enough.’ Then...

**Flotsam and Jetsam** (Continued from page 2) canes and other storms as well as human activity such as boating, this study reveals that populations cannot rebuild as quickly as hoped. But the most effective way to protect coral continues to be the cessation of injury events altogether. Hurray for Bonaire’s “no touch” rules.

► **Sara Matera, the general manager of the Divi Flamingo Resort** was given a rousing goodbye party by her boss, co-workers and friends on Friday, January 25. The turnout seemed to be over 100 strong and ranged from housekeepers to the highest

Dutch and island officials. Sara is known for her extensive community involvement as well as fine management. One of her planned future projects is to revive the Bonaire culinary team.



Sara Matera

► **Get ready for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Special Olympics fundraiser Walkathon** set for

Sunday, March 3 at 5 am. Start to train for the 30 km. walk tracing the route of the slaves from the white slave huts to Rincon.

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# New Hand At The Helm of the TCB

The Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) recently appointed Ethsel Pieterella (48) to be its Director and Chief Operating Officer (COO). According to published statistics, tourism accounts for eight out of 10 jobs on Bonaire. Two weeks ago we met him so we could tell our readers more about the newest key player on Bonaire's team to attract and retain tourists.

Ethsel is a modest, articulate man, easy to approach. He was born in Curacao but has spent a large portion of his working life in The Netherlands in marketing (for RABO Bank among others) and as an economics instructor at Mondriaan College. Most recently he served as president of MAAS Rotterdam foundation and as a consultant in Den Haag, where he organized several businesses in the tourism sector.

He married relatively late in life and has two children ages four and six. One of his main outside interests is music. He is an accomplished composer and singer. To his fans he is known as The Count – Conde\*.

Before arriving here he had no family or friends on Bonaire. His only connection was through his wife, born on St. Eustatius, who attended high school on Bonaire. He and his family are settling into life on our island.

Ethsel applied for the TCB Director



Ethsel Pieterella

position through the *Ban Boneiru Bek* website which aspires to bring talented Antilleans back to their home ground. Following extensive email correspondence and Skype interviews with members of the TCB Board of Directors he travelled to Bonaire and accepted the job. Ethsel says he is impressed by the ex-

perienced TCB office staff. "They are more than just colleagues, they are friends," he adds. The staff has been without leadership for some time and he looks forward to working with them to get the TCB moving forward, to help them become organized to meet the challenges of the future.

In 2013 he plans "to lead by example" and hopes others will imitate the TCB.

In April the present TCB website will be scrapped and replaced by a new site that will be modern, accommodate not only computer but smart phones. It will offer "Apps" to add to the user's experience and take advantages of social media like Facebook.

He sees TCB's role on island as helping its workers, rather than businesses, in relationships with the island's visitors, especially with service issues. This includes restaurant workers, taxi drivers, and shopkeepers. He hopes to build on the already existing pool of tourism-related expertise and add additional competence. Ethsel believes the TCB should also support local cultural activities and that TCB funds be allocated for this activity.

For overseas markets Ethsel sees the Bonaire TCB office providing leadership, streamlining the overseas operations and measuring the success of those offices in attracting visitors. He hopes to learn more about the joint TCB/KLM/Sky Health project that could introduce medical tourism to the island.

He believes that having accurate tourism figures is important and stands behind the recently released tourism statistics going back a decade and is confident that the new collection methods will yield good

results. Of course, he recognizes the possible errors that can be introduced by the significant numbers of travelers from The Netherlands who come not as tourists, but on official government business... especially in winter.

He perceives no conflict between the TCB, BHG (Bonaire Holding Group that oversees Bonaire's government-owned companies) and BONHATA (Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association). BONHATA's role is to promote its business members; TCB's role is to promote Bonaire as a vacation destination, he says.

*The Reporter* hopes that the people of Bonaire reach out to Mr. Pieterella and let him see the real soul of Bonaire that that cannot be expressed in print or on the air. Invite him to parties, social gatherings, meetings and sports events. Make him an honorary "Child of Bonaire," for he is Bonaire's face to the tourism world. ■ G.D.

\* Ethsel "Conde" Pieterella is also a composer and singer known for his unique silken voice and wide repertoire. He is the co-founder of Rotterdam's *Orquesta Salsique*, Europe's number one Latin band, and can perform in different languages - Spanish, English, French, Dutch, Italian and Papiamentu, and some Surinamese. The musical styles include Salsa, Zouk, Merengue, Son, Boleros, Bachata, Pop, Gospel and Bigi Pokoe. He's performed in Eastern Europe as well and has been involved with international artists such as Jose Papo Rivera, Anthony TC Colón, Rica'banda and the famous Ilvio Pietersz. (Source-Internet, <http://www.palante.nl/>)

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DUTCH CARIBBEAN CHILD WELFARE AND FAMILY GUARDIANSHIP

In November 2011 Justine Verschoor became the new Director of the Dutch Caribbean Child Welfare and Family Guardianship. Justine came from Holland where she started her career in Youth Welfare. Then she became a manager in higher professional education, specialized in social work. From there she moved to the Ministry of Safety and Justice in The Hague, first as an executive at crime prevention, then at personnel and organization. Her last project involved 40,000 employees of the Ministry of Justice. "After that I was ready to do something on a small scale." Justine smiles.



Justine Verschoor

"I had met several people who had been working in the Dutch Caribbean and they told me about the way things were working on the islands and that improvisation and inventiveness were very important, something that attracted me very much.

Now, after being the Director of Child Welfare and Family Guardianship for one year and a couple of months, I came to a cautious conclusion: I started here with the idea that a lot of things had been accomplished. The building had just been dedicated, it was a very nice work environment, there was quite a lot of personnel working as a team but, after a while I began to see what serious and complex problems we are facing in the work that needs to be done for our target group.

Here on the island, there are many children who are having a very tough time because the parents have to work several jobs and don't have the time or the energy to look after their children. Because there is little supervision of the children they grow up in the streets. Then there's a group of parents who are coping with alcohol and/or drug addictions, and another factor is that the parents themselves had little education. **On top of everything there is poverty – a poverty that is unheard of in Holland – I never had to deal with this kind of poverty in the Netherlands.** So, we are working from a beautiful building, but the problems we are facing are far from beautiful. The image the Caribbean has of being fun and easy living doesn't match reality because inside the islands are coping with a lot of problems and misery.

Every Monday we have a case consultation with related authorities where we discuss the children who are being reported to our organization by people from their envi-

ronment, schools and other sources. We confer about the situation of every child to see what precisely the matter is and what can be done about it. Then there are different options: help can be offered on a voluntary basis, like parenting support. However, it is also possible that there is great concern about the safety of the child (read: in the ages from 0-18) and that the person or the authority who reported the case needs to pass it on to the Guardianship Board. When the case is reported to the Guardianship Board they take it under consideration and then they will determine whether an investigation is required. If not, the case is closed and, if that happens, the judge will appoint a family guardian whose first priority is the child but who will also work with the family.

Even though parents didn't ask for it, they are obliged to work together with the family guardian. From there on two things can happen; either the child stays with his or her family under the supervision of the guardian or it is decided by court that the child will be taken from the family and placed with foster parents or in a home.

At the moment two homes are being subsidized: Rosa di Sharon and the extended stay home of *Stichting Projekt* and then there is *Kas di Karko* which is part of Youth Welfare and Family Guardianship. Also, we have more than 60 foster families who are extensively and carefully screened to see if they are up for the task and... we can always use more!

Working here is different from the way it is in Holland. On one side you have more freedom because the legislation which applies to Holland does not apply here, so, on the other hand there is a lot of legislation missing on which the organization must

meet. It gives you that freedom, but it can also make you insecure and you have to 'invent' things, which gives you a bigger responsibility.

I do want to say, that the interaction and cooperation with the other authorities here is much better than in Holland. In Holland it's fortresses, here it's people – people you need, because the problems are so complex that you cannot do it on your own. **Also, I think it is of great importance to make it clear to The Hague that the poverty on the islands has past the critical level and is unheard of and doing so much damage.** Together with all the other authorities and the public body we should ask for more attention and help"

**BRENDA SIMMONS – FAMILY GUARDIAN:**

"I've worked in Holland for 20 years at the Board of Child Welfare and before that for 10 years at *Huize St. Jozef*, a home for boys and girls in Curacao. Here, at Child Welfare and Family Guardianship, there are six family guardians and each one of us has about 25 cases, and mind you, one case can have one child but it also can have six children. A family guardian is like a social worker/personal trainer. I like my job; it's interesting and diverse, but it is also tough. I enter people's lives who didn't ask for it and for most parents it's hard to admit things are not going well and a change has to be made. Before I can get to work and solve the problems I need to gain their confidence. Some parents understand they need help while others continue to resist. However, the most important person is always the child.

When a child is placed under supervision it is at first a temporary measure. A guardianship status is always pronounced for a

(Continued on page 8)

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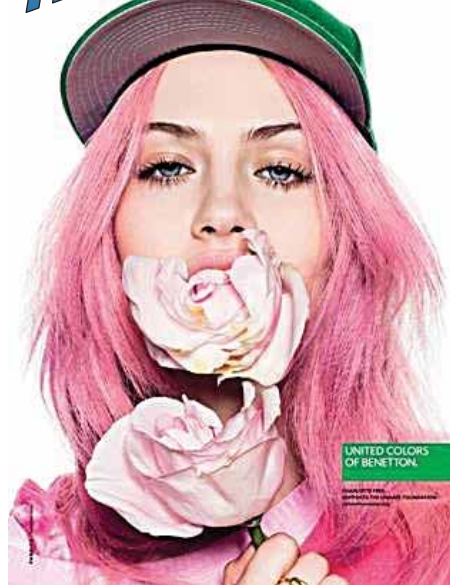
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**FREEDOM TO BREAK YOUR HEAD**

Dear Editor:

In the last edition of *The Bonaire Reporter* a letter written by Laguna Aquamarijn was published on page five as a "Letters to the Editor." Needless to say: "Opinions expressed are those of the writer, not necessarily those of *The Reporter*." Above all, after Finland, The Kingdom of the Netherlands is the second in line who talks about freedom of speech and freedom of publishing.

I am very glad Laguna Aquamarijn reads *The Bonaire Reporter* and pays attention to my articles about helmets and helmet awareness and I would sincerely like to thank Aquamarijn for the contribution to our matchless newspaper. Aquamarijn is definitely right mentioning riding a bike (and a skate board, and a moped, and, last but not least, a motorcycle/jb) is a vulnerable way of transport and that using a helmet reduces that vulnerability. I do not even wish to make wearing a helmet obligatory. As a free spirit I strongly believe people are able to decide for themselves. As long as there are no laws, every person is free to decide to wear a helmet or not. And even when laws are there which make wearing a helmet obligatory you can still decide not to wear a helmet and enjoy the wind blowing through your hair. For sure the risk of being stopped by the police and receiving a fine is not really that big. And then you can decide to pay the fine and continue being a member of the traffic, not wearing a helmet.

I've worn helmets for more than 40 years now and my only intention as a thinking human being and reporter is to inform the people by the spoken or written word. And if I can convince my listeners or readers, to me that is even better. It took a lot of information and even more time to convince myself to wear a helmet on my mountain bike, and in fact it was the influence of another member of this society who finally opened my eyes. I had to admit and I came to the conclusion that even climbing a hill on my mountain bike and descending that same hill with a low speed makes me vulnerable because I am not the only user of dirt tracks and the public road.

I know I cannot ban everything dangerous in this world. That is for sure. I know I love my life and I love to live. That is for sure too. So, at least as long as I enjoy my life and the living with others, and as long as I can also have fun, I want to live as long as possible. Wearing a helmet contributes to my safety when I am on my motorcycle or my mountain bike. In the beginning, wearing a motorcycle helmet, I felt stupid because I thought I looked stupid. Those days motorcycle helmets were not obligatory and the tough guys on their multi cylinders spent all their money on their bikes. No money was left for protective gear. Even now, wearing a bicycle helmet for the first time in my life in 2013 I felt a little bit dumb because of my silly outfit. I looked in the mirror and wrote the editor of this newspaper that all photographs taken from me, wearing a helmet, showed a silly face with a stupid and insecure expression because of wearing that helmet. I did not like those pictures at all and I did not send them to my friends and relatives.

I have to admit that I got more and more comfortable during my first trip to Kralendijk, wearing a helmet on my mountain bike. I have to admit it helped, wearing a tough looking helmet with a forceful color and shape. I do not want to look like a sissy! It appeared wearing a helmet is not that uncomfortable. It is not that hot either. At least it is not hotter than riding your bike without head protection.

Of course, to a certain level, you are free to do what you want. I intend to be one of the last persons to tell others what they have to do, what is best for them and what is forbidden. I don't even tell my own kids to wear a helmet. I just inform them and try to share knowledge while we are adjusting and greasing the bearings of the vehicles to make the ride as smooth and comfortable and as much fun as possible.

Note from the writer: My son died in an accident down-hilling his long board in the Sabadeco area, not wearing a helmet. My daughter wears a helmet during snowboarding. Research in the USA proved wearing a protective helmet decreases fatal head injuries. ■ J@n Brouwer



**BONAIRE ON WHEELS**

This is the 124<sup>th</sup> of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n -wear a helmet- Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles and persons that are "on wheels." Up to at least 200 articles!

**The Loyal Olive Drab Dutch Military's DAF YAD4442 truck**

Bonaire/ Kralendijk –

On a Friday I drove my Mongoose mountain bike in the direction of Kralendijk to deliver some examples of the latest edition of *The Bonaire Reporter*. Along Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot a military DAF truck was parked. I introduced myself and asked the soldiers for permission to write a



J@n Brouwer photo

*The sturdy and reliable olive green DAF YAD4442 military truck, surrounded by tropical palm trees. Behind the truck the contours of a heavy duty military single-axle trailer are visible. This go-anywhere DAF vehicle is powered by a Dutch-built six-cylinder turbo diesel and equipped with optional four-wheel drive.*

positive and informative article about the DAF for the newspaper. Of course they had to ask for permission and a couple of moments later an appointment was made for the next Monday morning.

That Monday two DAF trucks were parked on and in front of the terrain. I shot some pictures of the DAF YAD4442, registered: KM-31-13. This vehicle was produced by the Van Doorne's Automobielen Fabriek in Eindhoven, the Netherlands in 1991. "Y" stands for military, "AD" stands for general services (*Algemene Dienst*), "4" stands for four tons, "4" stands for four wheels, "4" stands for four-wheel drive and "2" stands for series two. (To be complete, the 4440-model was equipped with four wheels as the later 4442-model had six wheels. Two in the front and a four-wheeled axle in the rear/jb.) To me the truck makes a very reliable and honest impression: a huge and high chassis made of quality steel, impressive 22.5-inch rims and desert tires made by Michelin (France). A no nonsense 6240 cc six-cylinder engine, producing only 180 horsepower at 2600 rpm. The Dutch-made DNT 620 power plant is equipped with a turbo. The gearbox contains six fully synchronized speeds and 4WD is optional. These trucks are able to carry 4,000 kilograms. Their own weight is some 7,600 kilograms. All in all DAF produced over 12,000 of these military trucks since 1976. There is a variety of three. The vehicles can be equipped as a mobile office, an ordinary transporter or a vehicle to move a bunch of soldiers. These three units are

connected to the chassis with four huge bolts and nuts. The units are interchangeable.

The Dutch battalion is stationed for four months on Curacao. The men are on Bonaire to get to know the island and the people. To get used to the temperature and the differences, compared to their normal training and working area: the old world of Europe. The mechanic of the DAF trucks says: "It is a pleasure to be here. It is warm or even hot but we have to train to be prepared to help and assist under all circumstances, wherever we are. We are used to leafy trees in the woods and here we found lots of cactus which makes it different and difficult. This is an extra challenge for us. We really have to get used to the high temperature of the tropics and the completely different environment. We try to get to know the island and the people. Not all maps are that accurate. We helped the animal shelter and the turtle organization. In case of natural disasters like hurricanes we will be here to help wherever we can, and in case of calamities the Bonairean government can ask for assistance."

Nice guys, those Dutch soldiers, training under our bloody hot sun, sleeping with over 100 men in a cramped hangar, eating food out of olive green tins. Thanks for your presence and your positive activities! ■

Story & Photo by J@n Brouwer



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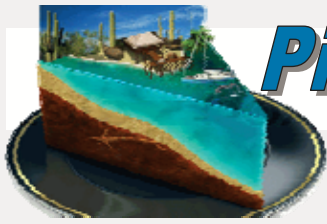
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## Piece of Paradise

Answers to your Bonaire real estate related questions. Please email your questions to [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)

### HOW TO DEFINE WHICH HOME IS A CANDIDATE FOR YOUR OWN PIECE OF PARADISE

The purchase of a home very often is the most important financial transaction many of us will make in our lives. This can make some potential buyers very insecure about the final decision about which is the right property for them. Today I would like to try and assist buyers with assessing how to decide which property is best for them.



Sunbelt Realty photo

First of all, for the majority of home buyers they are buying just that, a home. A home for their family, friends, to feel safe and secure in, and to retreat in from our hectic work life. We all know people who purchased a home at one point and then made a huge profit by selling it at a later date. If you want to make sure that you will do the same, then you need to look at any property that you are considering purchasing with the eyes of the person that you would like to sell this property to within a reasonable amount of time. In this case you are running the risk of not buying the property that will most feel like home to you. If you are looking for your own home for a reasonable long time to come, then you should take the following into consideration.

In order for a place to feel like home you will need to be able to have the peace of mind that you are definitely able to afford it. To be having sleepless nights (in your own home) about making it to the next mortgage payment does not give you that secure place that you were looking for. Talk to your bank before you go searching for a place, so you have a realistic vision of your financial possibilities.

Furthermore you will have to realize that owning a property comes with the burden, or joy, of maintenance. Take a good honest look at yourself: the life cycle of your family, your own age and abilities. Establish for

yourself how much time and money you are willing to spend on a regular basis on your property, and keep that in mind when you start looking at properties.

Then, make a list of how much room you need ideally, and how much room you need at a minimum. How many people are in your family, how many bedrooms and bathrooms do you need? How often do you use your kitchen, do you prefer to have living space inside or outside? What are you most prepared to give up, and what are you most definitely not willing to give up? Do not forget to define how much storage space you are looking for. Especially in Bonaire where homes are built for different uses (long term use vs vacation use), the amount of storage space varies significantly.

When you visit the homes that on paper are in line with your requirements, try to imagine the property already yours. Do not get caught in details of the present decor of the home. Try to see what it can be, not necessarily what it is. On the other hand, when a home is well staged, try to remember that it is not that great couch or plant that you are buying, but your home.

I hope that this advice is useful when you are ready to take the steps towards owning your own piece of paradise and go into a realtor's office to research your possibilities. ■ *Corine van der Hout, Sunbelt Realty*



*Safeguarding Children (Continued from page 6)* year and may be renewed annually. We – the family guardian and the team, the parents and the child (depending on the age of the child) - make an action plan with the goals we need to achieve to improve the situation. One year later we report back to the judge and we offer advice: renew the supervision or cancel it.

Change is always made slowly because parents and children are together in a certain pattern that needs to be broken and first they have to see the reason why. If the child is in danger – because the parents are addicted, because the child is neglected or mentally, physically or sexually abused - we report it to the judge and so, when a child is taken from its home, it is always done by court order and the parents are informed beforehand. For most parents it's a painful and sad occurrence, but still, the parents will have their visitation rights. Even then I am still the Family Guardian and I am also involved with the home or the foster parents the child is staying at and of course with the child's parents, because our goal is always to reunite the child with its parents unless it is out of the question and absolutely impossible.

**When I came here I thought that Bonaire was small and that the problems couldn't be too bad, but soon I found out that here it's not less than in Holland, only many problems stay indoors.** Hopefully in the long run, the situation will improve, and the way I see it, every child counts; if we can change one child's track for the better I am content."

**Marieke Kamerbeek, Manager/Coordinator of the team of the Family Guardians:**

"I am working with Child Welfare and Family Guardianship since the first of August 2012. I come from Holland where I worked as an advisor in cases of domestic and sexual violence. I also lived for three years in Nicaragua where I worked as an advisor for organizations against sexual exploitation of children. My job here is to manage the team in the interest of the



Marieke Kamerbeek

personnel and the organization so we can do what we need to do. There are performance appraisals. You have to think about the development of the work and together with the other coordinators of the different departments of Child Welfare and Family Guardianship in the Dutch Caribbean, you are part of the staff of the organization.

I am learning. I am familiar with the Latino culture and I do see some similarities, but this island and its people definitely have their own culture. I am very happy about the fact that the Family Guardians really put their heart into their job. They are very accessible to their clients, while in Holland such relationships are very strict – you only work within the office hours and nobody ever stops by without having an appointment. Here, the relationship between the client and the social worker/family guardian is very humane and the interaction between the different organizations and authorities is also smooth and easy going and very close. You can literary arrange things fast and if necessary you can act immediately. All that is a very strong benefit of working on the island. We have a beautiful building, we are an organization under construction, and we are developing. A lot of things are possible here in spite of the fact that there isn't much to work with. However, that creates many opportunities and we're not hindered by a thousand protocols. It's a bit milder here and it never will be Holland – it shouldn't. This way it is so much nicer!

**Here, at Family Guardianship we see the worst cases, but there is nothing that hits people as hard and what has such an impact on people's lives as when it comes to their children.** Placing children under supervised guidance is forced assistance and parents have to cooperate. Of course there are parents who gladly do so and it's up to us to explain to the people that sometimes it is necessary that parents get some professional support and that there is someone – an outsider, a professional – who is watching them while they raise their children. You know, even good-for-nothing parents do love their children and children always love their parents unconditionally. That's very moving... and it has to be taken into account.

I would like to stay longer. I didn't come to leave after one year. I want to go all the way and really get to know the island and its people. It will take time, I am aware of that, but I am very open to do it the Bonairean way – the way it's done here!" ■ *Story & Photos by Greta Kooistra*



Thirty-three riders showed up early Sunday morning, January 27, for a mountain bike race organized by De Freewieler Bike Shop. Participation was free and there were no fancy prizes to be won. Interest in MTB racing is growing rapidly on Bonaire perhaps it was because they were able to ride the 4.5 km "technical" course through nature and not have to worry about cars.

Conditions were perfect and following the race there was food and drink.

Finishers are listed at the right. ■ *G.D.*

#### Order of Finish, 8 lap course

#	Name of Rider	Time
1	Dirk-Jan Methorst	1:39:04
2	Andre Maciel	1:43:57
3	Frank Mulder	1:46:07
4	Frank Bohm	1:48:47
5	Domingos De Lima	1:48:53
6	Jim Walker	2:03:49
7	Pieter Demeuleneester	2:07:02
8	Joost Gaalen	2:07:36
9	Wotty de Palm	2:15:56
10	Jon van 't Hoff	2:18:37
11	Kate Vink	2:25:11

#### Order of Finish, 4 lap course

#	Name of Rider	Time
1	Marc de Vries	0:52:03
2	Cindy Verweij Coppen	1:02:08
3	Anton Kroes	1:03:15
4	Annemieke Heutinck	1:04:10
5	Luis Marcano	1:06:33
6	Martijn Reichoorn	1:06:52
7	Maikos De Lima	1:07:50
8	Annemiek LeNoble	1:11:34
9	Simone Sweets	1:13:45
10	Neil van Wilgen	1:13:53
11	Monique Reichert	1:17:10
12	Edmee Knevel	1:17:35
13	Patrick Hulsker	1:19:03
14	Hans Hagedoorn	1:37:36
15	Rowan Beenackers	1:40:08



## Bonaire Coral Puzzle 11\*: The Culprit Returns!

In the article “Bonaire Coral Puzzle 6: The Culprit”, in *The Bonaire Reporter* of November 23 - December 7, 2012, I described how plumes of polluted sediments stirred up in the port of Kralendijk and drifted along the reef, caused the inshore boat mooring blocks to be covered with more corals than the offshore ones. What is unexplained is the observation that more corals cover right halves of the inshore mooring block faces which are oriented toward Karel’s Bar than their left halves. Let’s take a closer look at this phenomenon.

The right halves of the abovementioned faces are closer to shore than their left halves. In a sense, the right halves of these faces are their “inshore” halves, the left halves are their “offshore” halves, and the corals on these faces cover the inshore halves more than the offshore halves. A reader from Canada wrote, “I believe this follows the same theory as your inshore blocks vs. offshore blocks.” It does indeed.

Refer to Figure A – it has all the answers! It depicts schematically a cross-section of the plume being viewed in the direction of its movement from the port toward Kas di Regatta (imagine yourself under water with the port being behind you). The axis of the plume is near the lower left corner in the picture – this is where the concentration of polluted sediments is the highest. The offshore moorings are located in this area and thus are affected more by the pollutants than the inshore moorings located in the outskirts of the plume. This effect explained the inshore blocks vs. offshore blocks phenomenon, as described in previous articles of this series.

Now look at the “Left vs. Right” phenomenon. As Figure A shows, the concentration of pollutants differs between right and left halves of the inshore block face: the right half receives less pollution than the left half. Although this difference is not as large as the difference between the inshore and the offshore block faces, it is sufficient for coral larvae to prefer the right rather than the left halves for settlement. Why was this preference expressed only on the inshore mooring blocks? As Figure A shows, there is almost no difference in the pollutants concentration between the right and the left halves of the offshore block faces; that is why corals did not exhibit any right vs. left preference on these faces.

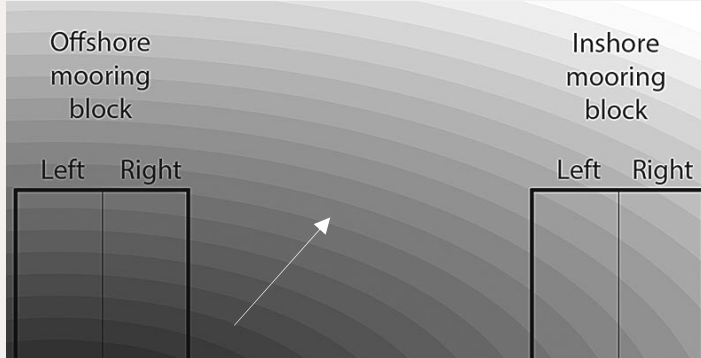


Fig. A. Cross-section view of polluted plume drifting from the port



Fig. B. An inshore block face oriented straight into the plume and the plume concentration gradient

Why was this preference expressed only on the faces oriented toward Karel’s Bar? Pollutant concentrations in the plume differ between the right and the left only in the plume movement direction as depicted in Figure A. That is why the corals exhibited the right vs. left settlement preference on the faces oriented toward Karel’s Bar – that is, toward the port, from where the plumes come. Positions of the coral colonies on these faces reflect this concentration gradient, as schematically shown in Figure B.

The same plumes of polluted sediments that caused coral coverage to differ between the inshore and the offshore moorings caused the differences in coral settlement between the right and the left halves of inshore block faces oriented toward the port. The polluted plumes drifting from the port are the culprit behind the “Left vs. Right” puzzle as well! ■ *Genady Filkovsky*

If you are interested in discussing these puzzles, their solutions, or to get more information, write to Genady

Filkovsky, e-mail: [lagoen-hill20@yahoo.com](mailto:lagoen-hill20@yahoo.com)

All previous issues of the series can be accessed through the web-site [www.filkovsky.net/bonaire-coral-puzzle.html](http://www.filkovsky.net/bonaire-coral-puzzle.html).

\* Editors note: In the last edition the article number was shown as #9, it should have been #10



## The Mystery Gourmet

### Lobster Night at La Balandra

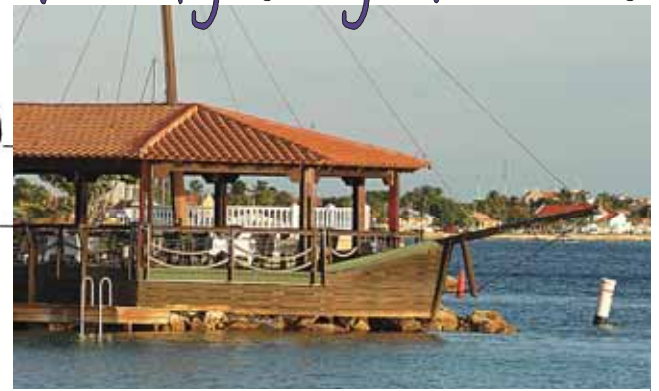
For some years the Mystery Gourmet and his even more mysterious wife have enjoyed dining at La Balandra, the seaside restaurant at the Harbour Village Beach Club.

The restaurant, arguably blessed with the prime sea view location of any eatery on the island as well as some of the best fare, has suffered a misunderstood, undeserved reputation, probably due to the somewhat forbidding gates at the resort entrance, the 24 hour security staff and a block or more walk through the resort gardens to the beach. Many folks on the island feel that the restaurant does not welcome diners other than hotel guests or Resident Club Members. Nothing could be farther from the truth, La Balandra welcomes local residents and visitors, during most of the year, simply a call to the Concierge desk to make reservations will guarantee a table, service and excellent food and drink, although during peak periods when the hotel is at full capacity and the condominium are occupied by their owners, reservations are then limited to guarantee great service for local traffic as well as hotel guests and Club Members. Otherwise La Balandra is more than delighted to welcome Bonaire diners.

Furthermore, Harbour Village Beach Club also makes available “Beach Passes” for day visitors. These passes are available for \$47.70 per person and include a \$15.00 resort credit that can be redeemed at La Balandra. The beach pass will provide beach towels and lounge chairs for a memorable day on its private each.

For many years La Balandra suffered the defect of being good weather dependent, the restaurant being shaded by canvass sheets, pleasant enough on sunny, windy days but not being all that comfortable should it experience one of Bonaire’s famous tropical showers. Very little shelter was available, thus one had to check the weather prior to planning a party. A year or so past, management constructed a beautiful roof over the entire area, ceiling fans and improved lighting were added, the ambiance, utility and comfort were immeasurably improved. indeed, a shower or two might be welcome from time to time.

A special treat is available for those who would enjoy a specially romantic meal. In dry weather, with request, lunch or dinner on the beach can be ar-



From the seaside La Balandra looks like a sailing ship



La Balandra with its cozy new roof



There’s nothing like lobster!

ranged. Lunch at an umbrella shaded table or dinner with torch light is routine.

On this evening, having made reservations for two, the Gourmet and spouse were graced with one of the best tables available, prompt, gracious greetings and service were provided.

The restaurant has an excellent bar, the wine list is quite good.

The menu offers soups, salads, beef, lamb, seafood, chicken and fish dishes, desserts, coffees and more. Almost every day lunch and dinner specials are offered, the catch of the day is, in fact, the daily catch. Excellent fish sandwiches and cheeseburgers are always available.

This evening the mysterious couple shared a bottle of cold Pinot Grigio and both being lobster hungry and noticing specials available, ordered the lobster salad, the entree, grilled lobster tails and for dessert, a deliciously spiced grilled pineapple concoction, very appropriate after the rich meal.

The food, service, beverage and ambience could not have been better.

The mysterious pair lingered over coffee, enjoying the soft music, gentle breeze and stupendous view of the lights to the north and south, along the shore..

An evening dining experience to remember... ■ *The Mysterious Gourmet and Spouse*



# The Lighthouses of Bonaire (5) Fort Oranje, Kralendijk

*This is the last of the Lighthouses of Bonaire articles in The Bonaire Reporter by author-photographer Wilna Groenenboom. But this one presented several mysteries to be solved.*

Leaving beautiful Klein Bonaire behind we headed back to Kralendijk on the vessel *Good Return Bonaire*. Having visited almost all of the five working lights on Bonaire, we now walked from the Town Pier to my car, still parked in front of Fort Oranje. A lighthouse is still there but it's no longer in operation.

### The mystery begins:

It is said that the Fort Oranje foundation was built in 1639 by order of the West Indian Company and was used as a defensive fort until 1837. And, in 1932 a tower was built as a replacement for its wooden predecessor. During the 20th century the fort was used as the fire brigade building, police station and public prosecutor offices. At the moment the Criminal Court and the Harbor Police are using the buildings.

But in the text above what is the meaning of the words "the foundation was built in 1639" and "fort"? In the past the word "fort" could have different interpretations. It could be just for a military location, for protection and a lookout system. It could be built as a fortified earthwork with a reinforced earthen wall, or as a wooden palisade ring (pillars put in the ground close to each other, to form a wall) or a building with stone walls. Today we can see that the fort has a plastered stone wall surrounding some buildings, but how did it look in the past? And how far back is the "past"? Some sources say it was built "about 1636" and others, "1796!"

And secondly, what does the word "foundation" mean? Could there be an old foundation of a fort under the present fort?

At the beginning of any investigation about the history of Bonaire I always start with the book, *Bonaire, from Indian to Tourist*, by Dr. Joh. Hartog, my Bonaire "Bible." And indeed he writes about a fort on Bonaire in 1636:

A Dutchman, Van Walbeeck, who started working as a cartographer and navigator for the West Indian Company and who later was a member of the political board and did some exploratory tours, occupied the island for the WIC in the spring of 1636. From reconstructing the available information it's been determined that a small fort was

erected near Koeput (Pos di Baca/Spaanse Barbudo). It was a simple palisade ring, housing 60 persons, including 40 soldiers, so it wasn't that small!

In 1642, Ruy Fernandez de Fuenmayor tried to return Bonaire to Spanish rule. He came to the island with 300 men, 100 of which would occupy the fort which he thought was abandoned; 100 went to the harbor and the rest to the saltpans. But the Dutch, who were inside the fort and fearing that 1,000 men would be in the attack force, set the fort on fire and sailed for Curacao, leaving the burning fort behind them. After 40 years it still wasn't rebuilt.

I think that we can conclude that this fort, built of palisade wood, was not in the same exact location as the present Fort Oranje. Archeologist Dr. Jay Havisser told me that they never found Spaanse Barbudo, but he agrees that it was probably in the Punt Vierkant area, for logistical reasons and coastal visibility.

### But this still leaves the question of when the present Fort Oranje was built.

By researching more and surfing the internet I learned more and more about the history of Bonaire. Maybe I've found some facts to conclude that Fort Oranje is not that old, but it is still the first stone building on Bonaire, built in or just after 1796!

For these facts we have to go back in history, once again, to the foundation of the Comité Militaire (Army Committee), in 1796 in Curacao.

In 1796 the *Republiek der Verenigde Nederlanden* (Republic of the United Provinces/*Bataafse Republiek*) was allied with the French, so French warships were free to enter the harbor of Curacao. Then in September 1796, the Dutch became engaged in their war with England. A group of high ranking officers of the land and sea power, from Swiss, Dutch and German backgrounds (Commander of the naval forces Albert Kikkerr; Captain Lieutenant at sea G.J.H. Heshusius; the German Captain of artillery J.H. Gravenhorst; and some others), decided that the ABC islands should be better protected. The *Comité Militaire* was born, led by the Swiss Johan Rudolf Lauffer who later became Governor. Their first act was to set up a proper defense for the colony to protect the harbors of the three ABC islands. So they gave an assignment to build:

- Fort Zoutman on Aruba in 1797 (the



Fort Oranje about 1922 -Frates di Tilburg photo



Fort Oranje today—Groenenboom photo

lighthouse was built in 1866)

- Fort Oranje on Bonaire in 1796 (but got this name after 1816)

- Fort Republiek on Curacao in 1797 (after 1816 known as Fort Nassau, but once known as Fort Oranje Nassau)

**More sleuthing and some answers in the next issue of *The Bonaire Reporter*.... ■ Wilna Groenenboom**

**Sources:** Dr Joh. Hartog, 'Van Indianen tot toeristen,' Forten van de Nederlandse

Antillen – Curacao Maritieme Museum; Forten van de Nederlandse Antillen en Aruba Deel 2: Aruba, Bonaire, St Maarten, St Eustatius, Saba; Dr Joh. Hartog, 'Het Oude Fort van Aruba: de geschiedenis van het Fort zoutman en de toren....' Uitgeverij Van Gorcum 1995; Dr. Jay Havisser.



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# Children's Karnaval Parade



Akeesha, Netty and Nisha



The Kiddy Kids were celebrating their 10th year in Karnaval



Karnaval can be tiring



The Ginnies, the largest group in the Children's Karnaval



Lilian Domacasse made about 60 of the costumes for the Ginnies

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BioMagnetism is a therapeutic system that safely eliminates parasites, bacteria, fungus, viruses and other germs, therefore effectively healing most diseases, dysfunctions, ailments and pain.

All of the above can affect your body's pH and take it out of balance and into a state of acidity or alkalinity. Medical Biomagnetism consists of identifying pH imbalances in the human body. This is done by scanning the body with passive magnets. The magnetic energy reestablishes equilibrium (balanced pH). Bacteria, parasites, fungus or viruses cannot exist, reproduce or thrive in a balanced pH environment, thus pathogens are eliminated. When we eliminate pathogens, we eliminate illness and disease. This therapy has a high rate of success, is non-invasive, safe and painless.

Below are several examples of diseases that have been treated with great success by means of the Biomagnetic Pair:

*Rheumatoid arthritis, HIV-AIDS, Allergies, Cysts, Abscesses, Cancer (Depending on how advanced the illness is, the irreversible damages already provoked and the how much the immune system has been deteriorated), Migraines, Dizziness, Epilepsy, Meningitis, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Psoriasis, Dermatitis, Acne, Cold Sores, Osteoporosis, Bone and muscle pain, Lumbar and back pain, Fibromyalgia, Gout, Bursitis, Sprains, Dengue, Diabetes, Thyroid gland, Ovaries, Testicles, Cold, Flu, Asthma, Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Emphysema, Laryngitis, Sinusitis, Rhinitis, Gingivitis, Halitosis, Tinnitus, Cataract (prevention), Glaucoma, Arterial hypertension, Atherosclerosis, Varicose veins (prevention, not correction), Anemia, Leukemia, Hepatitis A, B or C, Cirrhosis, Uric Acid, Gastritis, Acid Reflux, Irritable Colon, Constipation, Diarrhea, Hemorrhoids, Infections, Deficiency, Urethra, Prostate, Infertility, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Herpes, Human Papilloma, Candidiasis, Chlamydia, Measles, Chicken pox, Smallpox, Aggressiveness, Irritability, Schizophrenia, Anxiety, Insomnia, Endogenous depression, Fear and many more.*

The Biomagnetic Pair is not centered around symptomatology but rather on the etiological source of the health problem. A Biomagnetic practitioner is able to detect an internal pH imbalance before the symptoms begin to manifest themselves. This therapy is therefore especially useful as preventative. The Biomagnetic Pair does not have secondary effects or contraindications and cannot cause medical iatrogeny. Unlike radiation, electricity or heat, medium-intensity magnetism does not break the hydrogen bonds in molecules. It cannot damage cells or tissue; instead, it reestablishes their natural conditions that may have been altered because of multiple reasons. Additionally, the therapy is fully compatible with conventional medicine and other complementary therapies. As a result, biomagnetism can already be considered an unstoppable phenomenon in which societies of the 21st century visualize their health systems being efficient, fast, clean, simple, and cheap, within all citizens' budget.

Fine-tune your pH and step into perfect balance and health. Feel free to call Rosita Paiman for an appointment 512-6375 or email [fit4life\\_fitness@hotmail.com](mailto:fit4life_fitness@hotmail.com) or [rose\\_paiman@hotmail.com](mailto:rose_paiman@hotmail.com). ■ Rosita Paiman,

*Rosita is qualified in Medical BioMagnetism, Reiki, Chakra Balancing, Healing Touch, Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT), Energy Psychology, Energy Kinesiology, Health Consulting (Fitness & Nutrition).*



# Parking in Playa



Thirty years ago I could do 10 things in one morning in Playa (Kralendijk) and be done with my chores in a jiffy. What an accomplishment, at the time, I thought.

Today it is impossible to even imagine getting 10 things done in one morning in Playa. And the simple fact is because of the shortage in parking downtown. How is it possible that the tax office was built downtown? It is a place of business that is often visited, but there is never anywhere to park.

Several parking areas downtown have been reserved for businesses. The Lourdes mall now has spots reserved for the police force, the "Tourism office" parking lot has been blocked off. *Onderlinge Hulp* fenced in that property and the area south of the post office has become a narrow muddy strip during the rainy season, not very pleasant if you have to park there.

When cruise ships are in port, the *Bestuurscollege* parking lot is off limits, and the road west of Wilhelmina Park is reserved for those selling their tours. What can be done to relieve this situation in downtown Playa?

First of all people who work downtown could park their vehicles at the stadium parking lot and the Government could supply shuttles to downtown Playa. There could be different times stipulated that these trolleys, buses or vans could operate.

We could have a new state of the art soccer, track and field stadium built somewhere outside of town...thus leaving the old space for parking. There could be a shuttle company with golf carts that could

take people in and out of town any time of the day, like they already have in Curaçao. Less pollution, less traffic downtown, where more green areas could be added to make the historic town of Kralendijk attractive to our visitors who come from all over the world to visit.

That triangle east of Bobbijans could be fixed up nicely so that parking could be done there as well. The walk into town should not be more than three minutes.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves. There are new streetlights being placed throughout town. What I'd like to see happening is for all the tiles and sidewalks getting a face lift as well. If I got paid a dollar for each time I saw someone trip because of a tile or an edge of a side walk that was busted I would be a millionaire by now!

And please let's get rid of all those cement dwarfs that keep cars from entering areas. People trip over these more than anything, and cars get bent by hitting them.

Send *The Reporter* your ideas or thoughts of what could be done to make Playa more visitor friendly for the locals and tourists alike. ■ Christy Doveale

## MONTHLY Goatcheese recipe

Fresh and healthy



### Tagliatelle "Semper Kontentu"

Maincourse serves 4

#### Ingredients:

Goatcheese Semper Kontentu	200 gr
Tagliatelle	400 gr
Bacon	100 gr
Mushrooms	250 gr
White onion (small)	1 x
Garlic	3 x
Cream culinair	400 gr
Rocket salad	75 gr

#### How to prepare:

Dice bacon in small cubes and let simmer low. Dice onion and slice garlic and add to the bacon. Slice the mushrooms and saute them with the rest. Add heavy cream and simmer low for 10 minutes. Add tagliatelle to boiling water with salt and olive oil and cook for time listed on package. Cut the goatcheese into small pieces and add to the sauce, stir until the cheese is completely dissolved. Add some pepper and salt to flavour. Once the pasta is ready put in a bowl add some sauce and top with rocket salad. Some bread and an glass of wine will complete this Tagliatelle "Semper Kontentu". Enjoy the taste of this delicious pasta and the love and care of Aletta's Semper Kontentu goatcheese.

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Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri 08		04:06 -0.07 ft	10:49 1.00 ft	19:11 -0.19 ft		6:59	18:40
Sat 09	00:01 0.21 ft	05:12 0.00 ft	11:45 0.91 ft	20:01 -0.18 ft		6:59	18:40
Sun 10	01:13 0.28 ft	06:32 0.07 ft	12:44 0.79 ft	20:50 -0.16 ft	New Moon	6:58	18:41
Mon 11	02:22 0.37 ft	08:04 0.11 ft	13:47 0.67 ft	21:36 -0.14 ft		6:58	18:41
Tue 12	03:23 0.47 ft	09:39 0.11 ft	14:53 0.56 ft	22:19 -0.12 ft		6:58	18:41
Wed 13	04:15 0.57 ft	11:06 0.07 ft	15:59 0.46 ft	22:58 -0.09 ft		6:57	18:41
Thu 14	05:03 0.66 ft	12:19 0.02 ft	17:02 0.38 ft	23:35 -0.07 ft		6:57	18:42
Fri 15	05:45 0.72 ft	13:20 -0.03 ft	17:58 0.32 ft			6:57	18:42
Sat 16		00:10 -0.05 ft	06:25 0.77 ft	14:14 -0.06 ft	18:49 0.27 ft	6:56	18:42
Sun 17	First Quarter	00:41 -0.03 ft	07:03 0.80 ft	15:03 -0.08 ft	19:34 0.23 ft	6:56	18:42
Mon 18		01:11 -0.02 ft	07:39 0.82 ft	15:48 -0.09 ft	20:15 0.20 ft	6:56	18:43
Tue 19		01:38 -0.01 ft	08:15 0.82 ft	16:32 -0.08 ft	20:56 0.16 ft	6:55	18:43
Wed 20		02:05 0.00 ft	08:51 0.81 ft	17:17 -0.08 ft	21:37 0.14 ft	6:55	18:43
Thu 21		02:33 0.01 ft	09:27 0.79 ft	18:01 -0.07 ft	22:22 0.13 ft	6:54	18:43
Fri 22		03:03 0.03 ft	10:04 0.76 ft	18:43 -0.05 ft	23:12 0.14 ft	6:54	18:44

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

**Sudoku Solution**

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



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# Kaminda di Arte – The 3rd Season Continues



*Ans Klein Heerenbrink – On the island since 1997, Ans says, “The simplicity, the beauty of this island – my eyes see, my heart feels – I tell you in the watercolors I paint.” Ans is a self taught artist.*



*Fred v.d. Broek – Another self-taught artist inspired by Bonaire, Fred likes to paint with oil. See his exquisite renditions of traditional Bonairean buildings and beautiful island scenery.*



*Artist Janice Huckaby Baillie, in Bonaire since 1991, owner of the Jan Art Gallery. Inspired by the island she’s done over 750 paintings of Bonaire – in oil, acrylic and watercolors.*

The Kaminda di Arte (Art Trail) on Sunday, February 17, will be one of your last chances to visit the studios of 11 different artists on the island. From 11 am to 4 pm the artists open their doors to showcase their individual art. Set up three years ago by a group of artists and their mentors, this tour gives the public an opportunity to get “up close” with the artists, meet them personally and view their work. No appointments necessary, just stop by. The Kaminda has been such a success that this is third year. There will be only one more Kaminda this year after this weekend, on March 17.

The 11 artists participating will be showing works in watercolors,

oils, mosaics, refined driftwood pieces and other mediums. Free maps of the Kaminda di Arte are available in shops, resorts and at the TCB.

Artists are: Janice Huckaby, Ans Kelin Heerenbrink, Elena, Wolmoet Jansen, Alexandra Jansen, Fred v.d. Broek, Luz Aida Franco Wesseliuss, Jose Smit, Alejandra Riquelme, Henk Roozendaal, Margreet Faassen-Pijpers.

Pictured above are just three of the artists you may meet and see their work on the Kaminda di Arte on Sunday, February 17. ■ Story & Photos by Laura DeSalvo



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Upcoming Cruise Ships— Source: Harbormaster's Office

Day	Date	Ship Name	Time in Port	# of pass.	Cruise Line
Monday	11-Feb-13	<i>Vision of the Seas</i>	1200-1900	2435	Celebrity/RCCL
Tuesday	12-Feb-13	<i>Aida Luna</i>	1000-1800	2194	Aida Cruises
Wednesday	13-Feb-13	<i>Eclipse</i>	0700-1800	2852	Celebrity/RCCL
Wednesday	13-Feb-13	<i>Grandeur of the Seas</i>	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Thur.	14-Feb-13	<i>Noordam</i>	0800-1700	1920	HAL
Sunday	17-Feb-13	<i>Sea Cloud II</i>	0800-2359	150	Seacroud Cruises
Wednesday	20-Feb-13	<i>Grandeur of the Seas</i>	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Thursday	21-Feb-13	<i>Emerald Princess</i>	1200-1900	3100	Princess Cruises

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS

### Karnaval 2013 Activities

#### February

05 Jump-up Rincon

07 Jump-up Playa

08 School Parade

08 Teener's Parade

09 Main Karnaval Parade Rincon

10 Main Karnaval Parade Playa



**Thursday February 7, CIEE-Presentation Fish and Fisheries on Saba, St Eustatius and Bonaire:** Overview of current research programs and the role of science in the management of natural resources. 7 - 8 pm, Kaya Gobernador Debrot 26 Tel: 717-4140

**Sunday, February 24- Jin Shin Jyutsu workshop** with Liz Paugoulatos. Jin Shin Jyutsu is the art of releasing tensions which are the causes for various symptoms in the body. Cost: donation for the Animal Shelter. Sponsored by Yoga Bonaire at Bonaire Basics, 10-11:30am. Tel. 786-6416

**Sunday, March 3—Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon**

**March 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> - BON DOET**

## 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** open hrs 1 - 7 pm, Entrance fees: Salary range from \$0 - \$1500 free.  
\$1500 - \$2000: \$25 per month.  
\$2000 - \$2500: \$30 per month  
\$2500 and up: \$50 per month. Registration forms can be picked up at the playground. Call 786- 4576/795-4050.

All candidates must present their last salary slip.

### Saturdays

• **We Dare To Care Playground Bazaar.** Weekly Flea market 9am-1pm. All tables are free every Saturdays except for the first Saturday of every month, \$10 per table. Donations of used clothing are welcome.

• **Open House at Semper Kontentu milk goat farm.** Second Saturday of the month, 8 am to 12 noon. 786-6950

• **Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market)** 1st Saturday of the month, at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am to 12 noon.

• **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 at the Shelter on the Lagoon Road. 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. 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.

• **Pétanque- 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-best island tour value**

• **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

• **Chez Nous School Restaurant—** Multi course dinners-through end of February. \$20, 6-8:30pm. Contact [secretariaat@beroepsonderwijsbonaire.org](mailto:secretariaat@beroepsonderwijsbonaire.org) or phone 717-8142.

• **Girls Night Out at Bistro de Paris Restaurant** at Harbour Village Marina. 3-

course menu \$25, 1/2 price martinis and house wine bottle

• **30-minute Meditation at Yoga Bonaire,** Bonaire Basics. 786-6416 or [info@bonaireyoga.com](mailto:info@bonaireyoga.com)

### Fridays

• **Happy Hour Crafts Market at Wilhelmina Park,** sponsored by Bonaire Arts and Crafts Association. 5-9 pm.

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

### FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

• **Monday -- Touch the Sea --** 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.

• **Wednesday - 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

• **AA meetings - every Wednesday** at 7pm. Phone: 790-7001 and 796-4931

• **Al-Anon meetings - every Thursday** evening at 7.30pm. Call 700-7751 or 701-8728

• **Bridge Club - Every Wednesday,** Bridge Club on Bonaire. 19:15, contact Jeroen Seegers for information tel. 717-4200 or 788-2819 or [jeroen@telbonet.an](mailto: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 Re-

sort 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](mailto:Marytjin@gmail.com) or [Daisycoffie@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 mornings 10am-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.

## Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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• **The Bonaire Reporter,** George DeSalvo, Publisher; Laura DeSalvo, Editor-in-Chief - Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. Available on-line at: [www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com) **Published every two weeks**

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# Guest Editorial

Opinions expressed are those of the writer, not necessarily those of *The Reporter*

## Beatrix, Queen of All the Dutch



Queen Beatrix waves to the people during her 2011 visit to Bonaire

This past week our Queen has managed to surprise us all with a long awaited decision. She will end working for our country and abdicate on the 30th of April, and that same day we shall have a new King of Orange, King William Alexander, her oldest son.

During her televised speech she recalled among other things the warm bond she felt with the Caribbean (the Antilles and Surinam). It is not an exaggeration to say that many Bonaireans felt that in reciprocity. It isn't just my neighbor struggling with a tear of emotion, many people on Bonaire still cherish the warm feelings associated with Beatrix's visits to Bonaire. She was there when there was something to celebrate, and she was also there when the going was rough. She made no secret of her concern for the situation on Bonaire and, on frequent occasions, emphasized the importance of sticking together. She was a symbol of trust, style and respect, not just in The Netherlands but also in Bonaire, one of the little bits of Overseas Kingdom.

Beatrix has shown more kindness and compassion for our island than the governments of The Netherlands of the last 30 years combined. That attitude was a cool and distant one, drenched with mistrust towards our administrators and our population. Let us forget about that period and hope for a King who wants to be there for all the Dutch including those who don't live in Amsterdam or The Hague. The fact that he will have an ambitious and intelligent wife from Argentina at his side seems positive. She is a firm lady who, in part because of her descending from South America might show some understanding for the predicament of her Caribbean compatriots.

The servants of the new King, ministers, secretaries, island administrators might seize the opportunity to be slightly more helpful. By no longer giving the island representatives the runaround and sending them from one window of the administration to the other, from one ministry to the next. The new seemingly fresh and perky minister Ronald Plasterk appears to be a breath of new wind in this respect. At the beginning of this week he visited Bonaire and stated that he wants

to be the minister for Bonaire. He will in first instance take the questions, problems and complaints on himself rather than have them ping-ponged around by officials of both Netherlands and Bonaire, or have them stew on a small fire into eternity as his predecessors turned into an art form, championed by former minister Donner.

Plasterk was handed a petition by the firemen and officials and informed them and the members of the island council that they had very little hope for a raise of their compensation and certainly not for full-time salaries for the work as island representatives. He compared the situation of the Bonairean administrators with that of the council members of the Dutch islands of Texel and the other Wadden islands and came to the conclusion that an island councilmember or administrator has a part-time job. Now that is how it can be done. Swift and to the point, a big improvement over the usual endless stalling and stewing. A new Dutch attitude? That would be a major turning point.

A historic event took place on Bonaire in 2010. The government of the island has become more integrated with that of the homeland The Netherlands. A process by no means straightforward, it has had results but has also generated exertion and resentment. Another historic event will now be added to the mix: our gentle Queen who, to the Bonaireans seemed more of a caring mother than a ceremonial symbol of the state, will bid us farewell on Dia di Rincon. We can be pleased with the interest she took in the Antilles. Hopefully her son and the future governors here and in The Netherlands will follow her example.

I wish Queen Beatrix a beautiful future as Queen – Mother. I hope that she will visit our island for a nice quiet vacation, without an agenda full of obligations.

Who will invite her?

■ Guus Gerritsen



## Picture Yourself With The Reporter at Cape Horn



Bonaire residents Alan Gross and Jane Townsend getting away from it all at Cape Horn, the southernmost tip of South America ■

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# Pets of the Week



It's puppy time at the Bonaire Animal Shelter and they're coming in from everywhere - brought in by owners who don't want dogs anymore, put into the Drop Off Cage (*Kouchi di Bestia*) in front of the Shelter and picked up by Good Samaritans who find the dogs abandoned. In two of the cases the pups are still with their mom so you can see what their background is. The moms we saw were handsome dogs with intelligent expressions - and very good mothers. One mom watched my every move with her ears perked up, making sure I didn't get too close to her precious babies. At the Shelter the pups and the mom get the best of care - good food, fresh water, shots, worming, socialization, and the very important Parvo shot which protects them from the puppy killer disease. And the moms will be sterilized. It's a good time to pick a pup with a lot of selection.

To see the puppies and all the other pets up for adoption visit the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Web site: [WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com](http://WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com).

Contrary to what you might expect after visiting other animal shelters, this one is a happy place with happy dogs and cats, housed in groups so no one gets lonely! They get excellent care, the staff gets to know each one's personality and can advise you on which one would fit into your lifestyle. ■L.D.

## Shelter News

◆ Remember the sad story of Moses, the dog who had been run over and whose owner left him like that, with a mangled leg (*The Reporter*, Dec. 21-Jan. 11, 2013). Animal Welfare was called by a concerned person and he was brought into the Shelter where it was hoped that he could be saved, possi-

bly by having the bad leg amputated. Sadly, Moses had so many other problems like heartworm (whereby the cure would kill him in his rundown condition) that he had to be put down. But, the case was reported to the police who are working on prosecuting the guilty party for animal abuse.

◆ If you know someone who doesn't want their dog or cat anymore ask them to bring them into the Shelter, no questions asked, so the pet can have a chance at a decent life.

◆ **Bon Doet**, the biggest annual volunteer event on Bonaire, is coming up on March 15 and 16. The Shelter's Pakus di Pruga (flea market) is on the list and will be completely cleaned and freshened up. This all-volunteer-staffed shop is on Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. It's got books, clothes, household items, you name it, at rock bottom prices, and all the proceeds help to keep the Shelter open.

◆ Did you know the Shelter has a **pet shop right in the office**? It's got leashes, toys, collars, beds - all at low, low prices as everything is donated - and it's all new! Check it out.

■ Story & photo by Laura DeSalvo



## Bonaire SecondHome Care



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# Bonairean Humor

From the Papiamentu language newspaper *èxtra*

You know, my son Juan has a guaranteed future already. When I call him he doesn't come. He's going to be a great waiter.

A guy was painting the dividing lines down the middle of the street. The first day he painted 10 kilometers, the second day 5 kilometers, the third day 2 kilometers and the fourth day only 10 meters. The contractor asked him: Why did you do such a great job the first day and painted 10 kilometers and today you only painted 10 meters?

The guy told him: It's totally logical. Every day the paint can was further away.

The teacher was giving a lesson on verb tenses and she asks Juan:

Juan, if I say "I ate", that means I have already eaten. If I say I am beautiful, what does that mean?

Juan answers: It means that Teacher has an over-active imagination.

Two friends are walking down the street. All of a sudden one of them stops and yells: "Uh-oh, look, my wife and my girlfriend are walking with each other!" His friend answers: "What a coincidence, I was just going to say the same thing."

A woman asked her son: What do you want to be when you grow up?

The boy answered: I want to be an idiot. Why, the mom asked.

Because Dad is always saying: See what a good looking girlfriend that idiot has, see the new car that idiot bought, look that idiot won the lottery.

Two kids arrive to class very late. The teacher asks them: Why did you both arrive so late? One of them said: Teacher, I fell asleep and was dreaming that I was on a trip and visited a lot of different countries. The teacher asked the other kid, And you, why are you also so late? The other kid said: I had to go pick him up at the airport.

There was a woman that was so, so ugly that once she went to a contest for ugly women and they told her she couldn't participate because they were not accepting professional ugly people.

Two guys are conversing in a bar. One says to the other: I have some bad news for you, your wife is cheating on us.

■ Translated by Jane Madden -Disko



### What will you do on March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> ?

On March 15th and 16th 2013 NGO Platform Bonaire in cooperation with Oranje Fonds will organize BON DOET, the biggest volunteer's event on Bonaire. Form your own group of family, friends, acquaintances or colleagues to participate together and have a good time. There are many chores and activities listed for BON DOET. Choose what you'd like to do best on our website. We are going for it! Are you?

Register today at [bondoet2013@gmail.com](mailto:bondoet2013@gmail.com), [www.bondoet.com](http://www.bondoet.com) or 717-2834

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Hasi bon, pasa bon!





# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## A NEAR MISS IN FEBRUARY

A near-Earth asteroid – called “2012 DA14” by astronomers – will pass very close to Earth on February 15, 2013. Astronomers estimate that, when it’s closest to us, it’ll be within the orbit of the Moon (which is about 240,000 miles away), and within the orbits of geosynchronous satellites (about 26,000 miles up). 2012 DA14 will be about 21,000 miles (35,000 kilometers) away. It will not strike Earth in 2013. Astronomers’ calculations of asteroid orbits can be trusted. After all, even decades ago, they knew enough about calculating orbits to send people to the Moon and bring them safely back, and today we are able place our space vehicles in orbit around objects as small as asteroids.

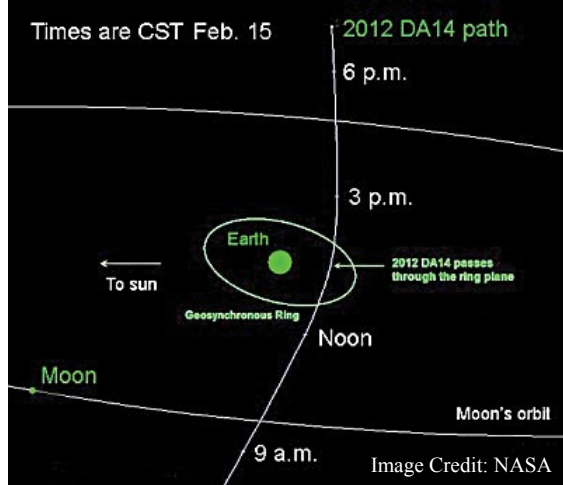
So, no, 2012 DA14 won’t strike us in 2013. There was a remote possibility it might strike us in 2020, but that possibility has been ruled out also.

Asteroid 2012 DA14 will pass closest on February 15, 2013. As the image above shows, it will pass much closer than the orbit of the Moon – closer even than orbiting geosynchronous satellites (22,000 miles).

What will happen when it passes us? The short answer is ... nothing. On the day it passes, most of us won’t see it or be aware of its passage, in any way. The asteroid won’t alter the tides. It won’t cause volcanoes. It’ll just sweep closely past us – as millions of asteroids have done throughout Earth’s four-and-a-half-billion-year history – some in your own lifetime.

The asteroid will be within range for small telescopes and solidly mounted binoculars used by experienced observers who have access to appropriate star charts. Here’s what NASA says about its visibility:

On [February 15, 2013], the asteroid will travel rapidly from the southern evening sky into the northern morning sky with its closest Earth approach occurring about 19:26 UTC when it will achieve a magnitude of less than seven, which is somewhat fainter than naked eye visibility. About 4 minutes after its Earth close approach, there is a good chance it will pass into the Earth’s shadow for about 18 minutes or so before



reappearing from the eclipse. When traveling rapidly into the northern morning sky, 2012 DA14 will quickly fade in brightness.

Asteroid 2012 DA14 is a little guy, compared to some asteroids, although its size has not been pinned down precisely. It is thought to be about 45 meters across (nearly 150 feet), with an estimated mass of about 130,000 metric tons. If a space object 150 feet wide were to strike our planet, it wouldn’t be Earth-destroying. But it has been estimated that it would produce the equivalent of 2.4 megatons of TNT. How does that compare with other known impact events on Earth? In 1908, in a remote part of Russia, an explosion killed reindeer and flattened trees. But no crater was ever found. Scientists now believe a small comet struck Earth. That event has been estimated at 3 to 20 megatons. So 2012 DA14 is in the same approximate realm as the Tunguska comet (which, actually, might have been an asteroid instead). It would not destroy Earth, but it could flatten a city.

Of course, about 70% of our world is covered by oceans. That means the most likely landing spot of any incoming asteroid is in the water – not on a city or other populated area.

Astronomers at the Observatorio Astronómico de La Sagra in Spain discovered 2012 DA14 in early 2012. We know 2012 DA14’s orbit is similar to that of Earth. That is one reason the asteroid eluded astronomers until recently. You can be sure that many astronomers are carefully tracking 2012 DA14 now. ■ NASA release



# THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

February 2013

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Put aside any decisions concerning your position at work. You are best to keep hard feelings to yourself. You need to start planning that vacation. Health problems may prevail if you don't take care of them immediately. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Your health may suffer if you don't control your present situation. Resist any idle chatter. Expand your knowledge and sign up for courses and seminars. Take care of the needs of elders in your family. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You should look into making some physical changes, such as new hair color or toning up your body. You can make new connections through friends or relatives. So smile! Be honest in your communication and don't lose your cool if someone backs you into a corner. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Stabilize your own position by locking up your savings. Avoid being overly opinionated or you will alienate friends. Avoid getting too close to coworkers or employers. Your partner may be reluctant to tell you how they feel. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Don't bend to the pressure. You need some excitement in your life, and meeting new people in exotic destinations will certainly satisfy your desires. Take part in stimulating debates that will allow you to show off your intelligence. Sudden changes of heart may cause disruptions in your domestic scene. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) In return, the satisfaction you get is enough for you. It may be a disappointing day emotionally. Don't draw too much attention to yourself at work. Try to make arrangements with close friends or relatives to spend a few days away. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can

make financial gains through investments and dealing with other people's money. You should be making plans to spend some time with the ones you love. Don't let anyone take credit for a job you did. You may be sensitive concerning friends and their situations. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 -Nov. 22) Go out with friends who are positive and supportive. You may meet that special person if you attend fundraising functions. Extravagance will be a problem. You can find out interesting information if you get a chance to talk to people you respect. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Speak of your future goals, intentions, and commitments. Social events will be plentiful. Get out and about. You are best to avoid joint ventures, and whatever you do, don't lend to friends or relatives. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Take action. Misunderstandings could cause confusion and upset. Enjoy some socializing this month. You may end up being blamed if anything goes wrong. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Hidden matters are likely to surface. You would be wise to consider attending lectures that will broaden your awareness concerning your professional direction. Self-deception about relationships is a problem. You will need to take a look at the renovations that are necessary and try to find the cheapest way to get things done. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar.20) Concentrate on spending quality time with children. Visitors are likely to drop by and chances are, they may even stay a little longer than you want them to. Ideas may sound good, but be careful if people are just looking for handouts. Help with your aspirations is likely, and profits could follow. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday. ■



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Spacious villa with sea views in residential area.



**Sabadeco, Crown Court 12**

This well built villa offers dramatic views combined with the privacy of a corner lot. Situated on the edge of a cliff, one can enjoy panoramic views over seafront homes to the Caribbean Sea and Klein Bonaire. The spacious living/dining area has a dramatic cathedral ceiling culminating in a cupola (skylight) which brings light in and keeps the area cool. A separate upstairs apartment with its own sun deck ensures privacy for family or visiting guests. The lot is large enough for a pool & sundeck if desired. Lay out: entrance into living room where sliding glass doors provide access to a covered porch with decorative arches framing the sea views. Spacious live in kitchen has a pantry, granite countertops and bar/sliding windows to eating area on porch. Hall to downstairs bedrooms has outside access and an alcove for washer and dryer. Large master bedroom with porch, private marble tiled bathroom, walk-in closet and built-in dressing table and cabinet. Guest bedroom with built-in closet & separate bathroom. Outdoor stairs leading to uncovered terrace with guest apartment with bedroom, kitchenette and private bathroom. Spacious garage (with off street parking) and outdoor shower & rinse facility. Lot size: 15.784 ft<sup>2</sup> (1.467 m<sup>2</sup>). Living area: 3,210 ft<sup>2</sup> (290 m<sup>2</sup>).



**Asking price US\$ 619,000**

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