

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** *Mar. 22-Apr. 5, 2013; Year 20, Issue 6*  
**The REPORTER**  
*BES Island News Too*

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These two sturdy and proud Bonairean fishermen got help from Bon Doet volunteers. See Page 11. Left: Rudolfo "Doi" Boekhoudt (67). Next to him: Stanley "Pipun" Marinus (71). They live on a very small pension and some fish they catch. Their hut is connected to the WEB drinking water system. Electricity is supplied by solar panels. The amount of money they have to pay for their green Kliko garbage can is higher than the dollars they have to pay for water... Still they are happy and healthy.

(Photograph: J@n Brouwer)

**R**epresentatives of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba spent last week in The Netherlands for talks with several members of the cabinet and the various ministries. Proposals and promises were made on various matters that are of concern to the BES islands like health care, social unrest, the huge costly bureaucracy, taxes, the economic situation and other important topics. The officials and ministries promised responses as soon as possible, but it appeared that no other substantive results were achieved.

► **THE HAGUE**--As St. Maarten seems to have little enthusiasm for upgrading the St. Maarten Medical Center to provide St. Eustatius and Saba with specialist health care, the islands have taken it upon themselves to explore options for a **direct flight to Bonaire so patients can be treated at San Francisco Hospital.**

► **Beginning in 2015 the Dutch Government will no longer cover the salaries of priests in the BES Islands.** Therefore, the Diocese of Willemstad, which includes Bonaire, is considering **introducing a voluntary contribution of 10% of their income by Roman Catholics in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, to pay the salaries of the priests.**

Before the constitutional changes of 10-10-10 the now dismantled Netherlands Antilles paid for the priests on all five islands. The Netherlands agreed to take over this burden for its three new overseas acquisitions for a maximum of five years.

Bishop Luis Secco confirmed that he had held conversations recently with the RCN but had been told that the 2015 deadline would remain because **The Hague sets great store by the separation of church and state.**

Another idea is for the priests to enter into the service of their respective local governments.

► **WILLEMSTAD**--The national detectives who were recently in Bonaire to hear UPB's Ramoncito Booi and Burney El Hage in the code-named **Zambezi case** also visited Curaçao to question **two new suspects** identified as I.d.W. and R.P. This was confirmed by the Prosecutor's Office in Willemstad.

► **Withdrawal of the tolerance policy for the adult club Bonaire Paradise Inn, better known as "Pachi's Place," was incorrect and should be reversed,** said Bonaire's Island Council with five votes in favor, two against and one abstention.

Island Governor Lydia Emerencia and other members of the Executive Council are also asked to make a case for the motion

with judicial authorities. Opposition leader Robbie Beukenboom (PDB) abstained from voting.

Based on the September 18, 2012, raids of the club and the homes of the owner and two employees, Governor Emerencia decided to withdraw the tolerance policy (which blocks enforcement of an officially illegal act).

However, a majority of the council members say that was not for her alone to decide but rather for the entire Executive Council, since it does not involve a disaster or calamity.

► **WILLEMSTAD**--The net income of Maduro & Curiel's Bank (MCB) Group, which includes **MCB Bonaire, increased by 5.5 million Antillean guilders (3%) to 178 million in 2012.** After taxes, this amount was 144 million guilders. In 2012 the total assets of the bank surpassed six billion guilders for the first time.

► **Look for even more tanker traffic around Bonaire.** Petroleos de Venezuela SA (PdVSA), Venezuela's state-owned oil company, runs a 12-million barrel oil storage terminal on Bonaire, operated by the Bonaire Petroleum Corp, a wholly-owned subsidiary of PdVSA. BOPEC receives 20-25 tankers per month. Much of the oil stored in Bonaire is later shipped to China. Venezuela is the Asian country's top supplier of fuel oil and a growing supplier of crude.

**PdVSA sold two million barrels of fuel oil to PetroChina Co. in a spot tender, according to a person with knowledge of the transaction.** The tender was awarded on March 8, said a person, who asked not to be identified because the information isn't public. It will load the fuel, with a 3% cent sulfur content, from BOPEC from March 30 to April 1, according to the tender document obtained by Bloomberg News.



Nicolás Maduro

► **Following the death of charismatic Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez following a two-year-long battle with cancer, the country observed a multi-week-long period of mourning.** Because Chavez was never sworn in after his reelection, interim President Nicolás Maduro is forced to hold elections within one month. Maduro himself is the candidate handpicked by Chavez.



Secretary Nereida Gonzalez, Ombudsman Alex Brenninkmeijer, Bonaire Commissioners Burney El Hage and Silvana Serafilia

► A constructive, fruitful but also extremely enjoyable meeting with the organization of the National Ombudsman, was reported to the press by Nereida Gonzalez, who as secretary of the Island, is the one who liaises with the organization of the National Ombudsman. The National Ombudsman of The Netherlands since 10/10/10 has also been the ombudsman for the citizens of Bonaire.

► **Bonaire now has a crematorium,** but it can't operate yet because it lacks the proper permits. So people desiring cremation for their loved ones must still pay to have the body shipped to Curaçao. The funeral home company, Nos Konsuelo, has built an attractive facility on Kaya Hellmund-Boom not far from the We Dare To care Playground and adjacent to the Catholic cemetery. Permits were applied for as far back as 2010. Reportedly, there is some uncertainty whether permits from the Island Government or the RCN or both are necessary.



► **The ProKids windsurfing event activity kicked off with a press conference last week.** The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the event, put on by the Aquaspeed Windsurfing Club, will include both Freestyle and Slalom events. It will be held from May 31 through June 2 at Sorobon. The conditions here are considered the best in the world. At the press conference short talks were given by moderator Gerrold Victorina, event founder Elvis Martinus and world champion windsurfer Tati Frans, as well as commissioner of Sports James Kroon. Prokids is a windsurfing concept born in Bonaire that has grown into a world-class event. Founder Martinus stressed that continued government and private financial support is necessary to keep the event thriving.

Opposition leader Henrique Capriles, a 40-year-old state governor who won 44% of the vote in the last election, said he will challenge the late Hugo Chavez's preferred successor for the presidency, setting the stage for a bitter campaign. **Elections are set for April 14.**

**WILLEMSTAD**--Not only are Dutchmen and -women living in Venezuela advised to stay indoors and avoid masses of people now that elections have been announced, but also to stock

up on water, bread and other necessities of life.

Expectations are that it will be a short but intensive election campaign. The Dutch ambassador in Caracas, Hans van Vloten, said in general at this time, the street scene in the capital and elsewhere in the country is peaceful.

► **In the case of the missing American vice consul in Curaçao,** the wife of the man, Abby Beard Hogan (50), was sentenced to serve one year and one day in prison by a US court. It was for

### This Week's Stories

New Pope	3
Eco Festival Success	5
10th Fishing Line Project	5
Kroonappels	5
Off to Italy	6
Harold Martina Piano Concert	6
SELIBON Expands Recycling	7
Tourism History—50s-Awakening of Tourism	8
New Tough VW Truck	9
BonDoet	10
Bon Doet	11
Fitness Ideas	12
Mystery Gourmet-L'Amuse	15
A Spot on Bonaire - Guest Editorial	17
Mona Pourier-100 years Old	17
Kriabon Farmers Market	19

### Departments

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
On the Island Since (Simone van Cadsand)	4
Picture Yourself- Santo Domingo	12
Bonairean Humor	12
Sudoku, Sudoku Answer	13
Classifieds	13
Tide Table, Sunrise & Sunset Times, Moon Phase	13
Shopping & Dining Guides	14
What's Happening, Masthead	14
Cruise Ships	16
Pet of the Week (Diva)	18
Shelter News	18
Did You Know? -Sea Grass	17
The Stars Have It (Astrology)	19
Sky Park (Calculating Easter)	19

### 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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her role in the obstruction of a multinational investigation into the disappearance of her husband, then working at the US Consulate in Curaçao. Although his bloody clothes were found his body was never discovered.

► **Rincon Day is Tuesday, April 30. Comcabon, the organization that holds an annual race from Playa to Rincon, a distance of 17.5 km.,** announced the 29<sup>th</sup> edition of the classic run. There are six age-related running categories each for men and women and the overall winning man and woman each receive a \$200 prize in addition to a trophy. There is also a youth relay class and a walking class. Sign up on April 27

(Continued on page 3)

►The 21 members of **Kolegio San Bernardo, class group 8**, are holding a **fund raising BBQ** (grilled chicken, mixed rice (*aros brua*), salad and peanut sauce) on **Saturday April 13th at the school**, from noon to 2:30pm. Donations are also highly appreciated. The kids are working towards paying for a graduation trip to Curacao's Sunscape Resort (old Breezes). Let's all buy some tickets and support these go-getter kids.



*Flotsam and Jetsam* (Continued from page 2) at 5 pm at Karel's Beach Bar. Entry fee is \$3. The event is sponsored by MCB Bank and the Rose Inn. For information call Richard Pietersz at 717-8629 or 796-8629.

►Flamingo Bookstore together with Sabadeco, WEB, Bonaire Gift Shop and the MCB Bank will put on the **35<sup>th</sup> Annual famous Kontèst di Fli** on **Sunday, April 7** at the sports field behind Kooyman's starting at 9 am. This year the Kontest is dedicated to Kooyman

Contestants go all out for this event – some coming from as far as Curacao and Aruba with their creations.

It's a fun filled day for the whole family. Come see the most unusual kites you have ever seen or even ever imagined. Prizes are given for the biggest, smallest, most unusual, most strange, most beautiful etc.

**This will be the 35th and last year that Iris Semeler, the powerhouse behind the Kontest di Fli, will have organized.** After this she will be taking a much deserved retirement, although we're sure she'll still be involved in some way.

Everyone can sign up to enter a kite. Pass



Activity from last year

by the Flamingo Bookstore on Kaya Grandi 19 Children pay \$2, adults \$4.

Music will be provided by HB disc and there will be different stands selling good things as well as a bar. Don't miss it!

## New Pope

Bonaire's population is overwhelmingly Catholic so the election of a new pope is big news on the island. Local observers say the election of 76-year-old Argentinean **Jorge Mario Bergoglio as Pope Francis I** shows Catholic Church leaders have opted for renewal. The church has been plagued by fiscal and sexual scandals in recent years.

The new pope breaks new ground for the leadership of the 2000-year-old institution. He's the first Latin American and the first Jesuit to become pontiff. Jesuit's are known colloquially as "God's Marines." In 2001 he was named a cardinal by Pope John Paul II. In the role of cardinal he was a champion of social justice. He is known to view condoms as permissible barrier to infection. He has criticized priests who refuse to baptize babies born to single mothers. He said gay marriage was a "destructive attack on God's plan," but he respects individual homosexuals. He's a rabid fan of his neighborhood's soccer



Sport Illustrated photo

Pope Francis displays the jersey of his favorite Argentinean soccer team (see text).

team, the Saints of San Lorenzo.

He is the first non-European pope in more than 1,200 years (however, his parents were born in Italy).

Pope Francis was ordained a Jesuit priest in 1969. Jesuits aren't ordained until they become 33, the age of Jesus Christ when he was crucified. The Jesuit order has a reputation for intellect, learning and toughness. It was founded to "strive especially for the propagation and defense of the faith and progress of souls in Christian life and doctrine." Pope Francis holds degrees in chemistry and philosophy and taught literature, psychology and theology. Of the world's Roman Catholics 40% are in South America. ■ G.D.

►Also on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April the second **'Xtreme Sports Bonaire' mountain bike FUN RACE** will be organized at Yatu Baku: 2 Distances: 5 laps of 3,5 km (17,5 km total) or 5 laps of 6,7 km (33,5 km

total). Everyone with a helmet is invited to ride or watch. More in the next edition. ■ L./G. D.

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# On the Island Since... September 1st, 2012 - Simone van Cadsand

“For a long time I tried to slow down the whole emigration process. You see, I didn’t want to go. It was my husband’s idea. In Holland I was an accountant and I had a nail styling studio at home. Martijn, my husband, was a truck driver. We had a busy and irregular schedule and the children spent a lot of time at after school care.



Portrait of Simone. Husband Martijn had to work. Son Viggo was playing elsewhere.

However, I was quite content with the way things were. When my husband came up with the idea of leaving the country I told him that if ever we should go anywhere it had to be a country where it is always warm. In Holland I felt cold all my life, especially my feet, and even here on Bonaire I feel really chilly now and then,” she laughs, “then Martijn tells me it’s impossible!

So, once I was in for a possible move abroad, I started realizing that we could have a better quality of life, especially for the children; to leave behind all that’s hectic and to live amidst nature in a warm climate. At work I had this colleague who was from Curacao and through her stories we started looking on the internet, and in 2011 my husband and I came to Bonaire to check if reality matched the digital information. But also we came to see about a job, the different neighborhoods, a house and a school.

Back in Holland we found find a job here and so, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, we arrived with our eight-year-old twins – daughter Samantha and son Viggo - and our two dogs. The children had never been here and they were very impressed. It was also the first time they had ever flown.

We rented a furnished house on Kaminda Lagun and we moved in the same night that we arrived, on a Thursday. The following Monday the kids went to school for the very first time at Kolegio Papa Cornes. It was hard for them – a very big deal - exciting but also scary. Martijn started to work with Alubon and I went to work too, but it wasn’t a good match. It didn’t last long; I quit.

Slowly the children got used to their school and found some friends, but at times it’s still a bit difficult because so far they only speak a little Papiamentu. One day I was approached by the mom of one of Viggo’s friends who told me they were looking for someone who could help take care of the horses of Marion Hoogendoorn, who had sadly passed away. All of Marion’s friends had been mobilized into taking care of the horses at her ‘Riding Academy Club Bonaire,’ but still, they needed more people.

When I was 13, we – my whole family - started horseback riding at a riding school, but in the end I was the only one who continued with it. I participated in dressage and jumping competitions and I had several horses of my own. At one time – when my dad and brother were also riding – we had seven horses at the farm. And I named my daughter after my first pony – Samantha. She and I went through a lot!

So, when they asked me to help with

Marion’s horses I was more than willing to step in and give a helping hand. And so it happened that after taking care of them, after getting to know them and falling in love with them, we decided to buy the horses...” She grins “and that’s how my husband ended up with six horses: one mare, one stallion and four geldings – all healthy, but they needed love and attention and a check up by the vet. We were promised that the horses could stay where they were, at Kunuku Warahama.

And...” She gives me a big smile, “now there are plans... lots of plans! I applied for a permit to open what’s going to be called ‘Horse Ranch Bonaire.’ That’s the first step. We love animals and I am very much aware of the fact that these horses are not so young anymore, but they are still active and eager and fit. And of course we’re going to make sure that some new blood will come in. Kimberly, the mare, will be served, and we are also looking for new horses. Furthermore, the terrain needs a definite face lift and we’re going to remove all the rubble and clean things up. We will renew the win-

**“... what I’ve seen is that Bonaire’s natural beauty is amazing, and I have felt and experienced the friendliness of the people.”**

dows and doors of what used to be the snack. We’ll paint it and in the future we want to make the building functional again.

In the end, it should be a place for parents and children and tourists to enjoy, a place where they can relax, where children can learn how to ride on reliable horses who know the tricks of the trade. And we might introduce other animals as well. I’d love to have some goats and chickens, a little wart-hog, a donkey and maybe... maybe... a cow! But that’s Martijn’s wish! And in addition to all that we also want to build a climbing frame under the tree with a nice seating area for the moms and dads. My husband is handy and we’re planning on doing most of the stuff ourselves.

Nowadays I have a very strict and lovely daily routine. In the morning I take the kids

to school, then I come here and feed the horses and start cleaning up. Then I brush the horses and take care of their hooves, I ride them, I give them water and the morning is gone. At 12:30 I pick up Samantha and Viggo from school and we eat a sandwich together with Papa who comes home for lunch. Then the kids and I go back to the horses.

The horses are doing well; the vet has checked their teeth and they are all properly dewormed, the food has been adjusted and the blacksmith from Curacao took care of the hooves. Now they need some time to get back into shape, but we are on the right track. It’s all about love and attention, exercise and the right food.

Why this love for horses? I don’t know what it is with horses,” she says quietly while her eyes wander off to her daughter who’s feeding the stallion. Then her face changes and becomes focused. “Horses have a mind of their own and each one of them is an individual with his own character. They are beautiful, stately animals - the way they move, their posture, the gaits they have, the galloping. Maybe you can have a similar connection with your dog or another animal, but to me a horse will always be different: a challenge, wilder, way more exciting. Horses are majestic, and riding them outdoors is magic. You become one with nature. It’s totally back to basics.

So now we are here on an island that has a culture and a language of its own. Of course it is a big plus that we can speak Dutch here,

but I do see Bonaire as a country of its own. There are so many things we still have to discover and learn about Bonaire and its people, but we’ve only been here for six months, so yeah, I just hope there will be so much more time to do so. But what I’ve seen is that Bonaire’s natural beauty is amazing, and I have felt and experienced the friendliness of the people.

Martijn and I are both 38 now and I feel it is the right age to make such a life-changing move. You know, life can have some very serious surprises sometimes that have a huge impact on your way of thinking - people get sick and they die. It happened to my mother who passed away at a young age and to Martijn’s father who didn’t become very old either. Then you realize life can be lived differently and you may change.

Here my children live outdoors. They are not glued to their Nintendo or other electronic devices, not always in front of the TV. Here they play in the tree and their bike, they swim and they ride horses and their dad has time to play with them and he is a part of their life.

But... wages are low, especially compared to Holland. If you have to make your money here, you won’t have a rich life. We are conscious of the fact that we have less to spend, however, it has been a deliberate choice. Hopefully we are going to be here for a long time. You know, I was born three months prematurely. They flew me to a specialized hospital in Amsterdam by helicopter and I pulled through. I am a fighter and I have patience. One day this place will match my dreams...”■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Simone, her daughter Samantha, and their horse, Kimberly.

# Eco Festival Success 10th Fishing Line Project



Bonaire/Sorobon – On Sunday, March 3, B.I.C.E.P.S. organized the “Eco Festival” at The Beach Hut, Sorobon. The presentation of all kinds of foundations and eco-friendly companies took place from 10 in the morning until four in the afternoon. The goal was to present themselves to the Bonairean public and create awareness. At 4 pm this part of the festival ended and music started. The Sleeves, a band of 11 musicians, played for free to support the Eco Festival.

Hundreds of persons visited the successful event to get to know the sponsoring B.I.C.E.P.S. organization better and to become informed by, among others, the people from the C.I.E.E., the *Dierenbescherming* (Protection of Animals/jb) and the local aloe plantation.

Presumably it takes more than the average amount of muscles of the brain to learn the full meaning of the abbreviation of B.I.C.E.P.S. by heart. It at least took my mind some time to get it and I had to crib and copy several times from the bill boards, flyers and the posters. **B.I.C.E.P.S. stands for Bonaire Island Coastal & Environmental Protection Society** and it is more than worth taking notice of this organization and its efforts.

The B.I.C.E.P.S. web site reads: “Mission statement: To empower the community to preserve their surroundings for generations to come. We are dedicated to environmental improvements that foster a sustainable future and lead to social improvements in the community we live. To save island species and ecosystems. Concentrate on finding solutions, rather than making excuses or placing blame. Promote reuse, reduce and recycling. Enforce compliance with relevant environmental laws and regulations. Fight for those who have no voice.”

Their statement is that well thought out



Hendrik Wuys and Sean Peton, key members of B.I.C.E.P.S.

and condensed so that I can only quote from the website. It is especially the last sentence that hits me: “Fight for those who have no voice.” Most creatures are permanently overruled by the hollow screams of just a few who have the power of overwhelming the mass. Our future is hopefully longer than a human life span.

Tough and forceful T-shirts were for sale with the well-designed B.I.C.E.P.S. logo on front and “I am a friend of B.I.C.E.P.S.” or, probably even better, in Papiamentu: “*Mi tin un amigu ku B.I.C.E.P.S.*” (I am a friend of Biceps)

B.I.C.E.P.S. believes it takes a deep breath to make this world better but every breath helps, even a sigh. Awareness is the key of life. And supporting the environment to make a better life for all on this earth, not only for today but especially for future generations. And don’t forget: the B.I.C.E.P.S. slogan: “You never lose until you stop trying.” ■ J@n Brouwer



Kralendijk/Bonaire –

On Sunday, March 10, the Fishing Line Project, a “division” of Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, organized another clean up dive. Some 25 volunteers got together at Dive Inn, one of the locations of Dive Friends Bonaire, at 9:45 am to get instructed about the recovery of old, lost and broken fishing line. Especially near piers there is a lot of lost fishing line, a real danger for the sea turtles as they can get trapped and tangled in them. Bonaire has been an island of fishermen for ages and as long as the fishing is not reaching industrial proportions the ocean is flexible enough to supply some fish. This time’s location was the Town Pier. Sue Willis informed the volunteers about the project and Richard in-

structed the divers about the recovery of lines without damaging the underwater world.

After the one-hour, non-deco dive the result was some 15 kilograms of nylon, lead and hooks. Apart from the lost gear the divers found three still usable hats, an electric water pump and a nice vintage aluminum made design table fan.

The Fishing Line Project wants to thank all volunteers for spending their time and energy and Dive Friends Bonaire for the supply of free air and the mesh bags. Let’s make Bonaire cleaner. ■ *Story & photo by J@n Brou-*



## Oranje Fonds Kroonappels

For the upcoming inauguration of King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima the Oranje Fund is organizing a search for the “Kroonappels” (Crown Apples). Up until last Thursday, 1,797 organizations had applied via [www.kroonappels.com](http://www.kroonappels.com). People from all municipalities in The Netherlands and the six islands of the Dutch Caribbean are eligible to vote.

The three winning organizations will each win €50,000 plus a small bronze statue, to be presented by the new king and queen..

On Bonaire there were 21 organizations registered to compete for this special prize. Last weekend, on March 15/16/17, people voted for their favorite. At press time, the winners had not yet been selected.

There are three categories: Youth, Neighborhood and Helping. The three winners from Bonaire will go to regional finals and the winners go to the national finals in The Netherlands. ■ *Press release*



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Students and chaperones who are Italy-bound

The Culinaire Bonaire Foundation and Italy Stage (work practice training) Project 2013 is happy to announce its ninth year of sending our young Bonaire students to experience a cooking internship (*stage*) in Italy! This cooking training is actually a life lesson for these eight SGB and FORMA students. Together with more than 80 other young chefs and Horeca (food and beverage) students they will receive a world class experience which can help them to choose a career path, to be proud of the Horeca field and to open their eyes to a world of opportunities. Young Horeca workers are a critical ingredient for hotels and restaurants on Bonaire where

80% of the island's income relies on the sustainability of our tourism.

The students from SGB and FORMA who will travel to Italy's Emilia Romagna Region for a three-week dedicated cooking *stage* and weekend excursions are :

Students from FORMA: **Deiby Romero, Ronald Gosepa and Izayn Bienvenu.** Students from SGB: **Giandrick Manuel, Jenueviene Casper, Hillary Cardoze, Jean Carlos Pouriér and Rimmon de Vries.**

Chaperones are **Ezzard, Semeleer from SGB and Isidoor van Riemsdijk from FORMA.** ■ Story & Photo by Sara Matera

# Harold Martina Piano Concert

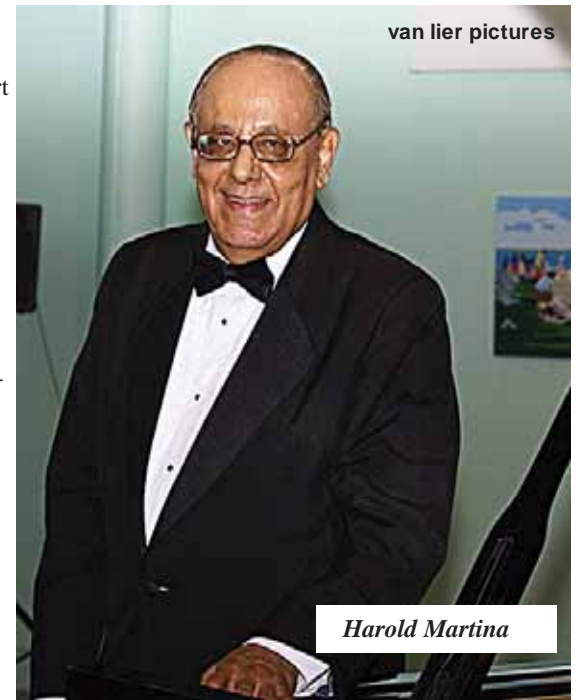
Wow, what a rare treat that was. Harold Martina at 78 years young is just an amazing concert pianist and a charming, graceful and humble man. It was a privilege to be in the presence of such virtuosity at the Classical Music Concert's presentation on Thursday, March 14 at the Plaza.

He played all the pieces from memory and it was sometimes impossible to believe how young he is. The program was well balanced and Mr. Martina played in the centre of the hall, giving a very personal and intimate setting reminiscent of years gone by when only the rich and aristocratic would have been entertained in the salons of Europe by such brilliance. Mr. Martina told me how wonderful he thought the venue, the piano and the acoustics in the hall were and that he sensed the warmth and support from the audience making it a joyful experience for him too.

Martina started with the world famous Grand Sonata Pathétique from Beethoven. This piece makes it difficult for a performer to add a personal touch, but Martina drew the audience in with his deeply emotional performance.

Martina has a virtuosity that never is a show but always serves the composition. The Spanish dances of Enrique Granados and also the very difficult to play etudes from Frans Liszt always has this fine balance: never too fast, never too emotional, always convincing.

It was a great pleasure and for most of the audience a big surprise to hear compositions of Lous M. Gottschalk, a lesser known composer from the Antilles. "Les Yeux Creoles"



van Ier pictures

Harold Martina

and "Oh, ma charmante, épargnez moi" have a fine virtuosity and a great melodic richness.

Martina is a top pianist, and without the great support from our colleagues in Curacao and the aid of the Prins Bernhard Cultuur Fonds and local Bonairean sponsors this event would not have been possible. Compared with Bonaire you can hear Martina in other countries for three times the ticket price in much bigger venues.

The last time Mr. Martina was on Bonaire was 20 years ago and it is hoped he will return soon.

Please visit our website [classicalmusicbonaire.com](http://classicalmusicbonaire.com) for details of upcoming performances. ■ Carla Hay/Hans Faassen

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# SELIBON Expands Recycling Efforts at New Environmental Square



Pauline Kayes photo



Pauline Kayes photo

SELIBON chief Rudsel Leito and Randy Leonora, Solid Waste Manager for the Landfill, with the giveaway prize mountain bike

## THE BIG DAY

On Saturday, March 9, SELIBON took a giant step towards separating re-useable and recyclable waste in order to decrease the landfill and improve environmental and human health on Bonaire. The new Environmental Square is conveniently located on Kaya Industria next to Warehouse Bonaire so that tourists and residents can drive up and drop off their recycling into separate bins with a minimum of effort. According to **Rudsel Leito, Direct Manager of SELIBON**, this new facility is evidence of "SELIBON investing in the future."

**Randy Leonora, Solid Waste Manager for the Landfill at Lagoen**, described all the common items that will be accepted: paper, cardboard, glass (brown, white, green), cardboard, PET plastic and bottles, old iron and metal, engine and household oil, electronic waste (like cell phones and computers), batteries (for cars and electronics), tin, even televisions, some appliances, and fans! Leonora claims that by re-using or recycling this waste, the landfill can be reduced by 30 to 40%, but they will need the support and cooperation of the public because "we can't do it alone."

In handling and disposing of all the waste collected at the Environmental Square, SELIBON is working cooperatively with **Bon Recycling, directed by Herbert de Jongh**, to make sure it is done responsibly and efficiently. Such efforts can result in economic development in terms of new jobs as well as financial return on the investment made in facilities and employees. As more communities like Bonaire, learn, there is cash to be made from trash. Smart entrepreneurs like de Jongh will benefit from green economic incentives, especially as landfills become looming monstrosities endangering humans and nature.

Leito, Leonora, and de Jongh all agree that an educational campaign is essential to inform individuals, households, and businesses about how to identify recyclables, sort them, and deliver them to Environmental Square. Motivating people to change their garbage habits, however, might be more of a challenge, but SELIBON has made the first step relatively easy: just collect it, bag it, and drop it off! And, for a limited time during the grand opening campaign, anyone who brings in 4 kilos of glass will receive a raffle ticket to win a mountain bike donated by Bon Recycling.

■ Pauline Kayes

On a personal note:

I am ecstatic that I will no longer have to pack recycling in my suitcases returning to the US; my bags will be lighter and US Customs and Border Control will stop regarding me as a weirdo! PK



Greta Kooistra photo

Bart and Jacqueline Landheer of Bon Kousa

ful klikos (garbage containers) from Bon Kousa to start educating the children about reuse, reduce and recycling.

On several occasions during that process Bon Kousa met with Mr. Leito, director of SELIBON, who has been talking for more than one and a half years with Holland about waste separation areas he wanted to establish in the different Bonairean neighborhoods. There were ambitious plans for waste separation on Bonaire. However, as the economic crisis is also a hot issue in Holland and many cuts are being made, they couldn't provide the money for such projects. Still, Mr. Leito was trying to find a way, and when **Bart and Jacqueline Landheer of Bon Kousa** asked Mr. Leito if they could make some sketches and see if they could find a simple solution, Mr. Leito was all for it.

So SELIBON provided the area - next to Warehouse Bonaire on Kaya Industria - plus the containers to separate three different colors of glass - white, brown and green - containers for batteries and car batteries, steel, paper, plastic, TVs, computers and cell phones, etc., plus the manpower to put everything in its place, while Bart and Jacqueline had the canvas posters printed in Curacao as they were too big to be printed on Bonaire and made their sketches reality. **The whole project of the first waste separation area on Bonaire came together in ONLY 10 days! It was a tremendous joint effort of people who put their minds, their creativity and their hearts together for Bonaire and its future. Not everything has to cost a lot of money— cooperation and creativity are priceless.**

The beginning is here and it's done in a simple way, so that everyone can get used to it, as changes on Bonaire are nowadays made way too fast and way too complicated.

You begin at home to separate plastic, glass, old TVs or batteries, and when you go to shop at Warehouse you stop by next door at the waste separation area and you can put everything there in the special containers.

Also a new job has been created, because SELIBON has someone supervising during opening hours.

All the separate waste will be collected by Bon Recycling and will be shipped elsewhere. Only breakstone/rubble/scree will stay here and will be crushed to be used again, for instance for the roads. ■ Greta Kooistra



Greta Kooistra

## BEHIND THE SCENES

The philanthropic group, Bon Kousa, has been involved in waste separation for some time. Last year they initiated the start of collecting separate waste (glass, plastic, aluminum and paper) at schools. All schools in Bonaire received four color-



Answer the following questions correctly and... win a **gardening workshop** or **\$25, \$50 or \$100 WEB credit!**

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How many kWh of energy?



- A 8 m<sup>3</sup>
- B 14 m<sup>3</sup>
- C 18 m<sup>3</sup>
- D 25 m<sup>3</sup>



- A 200 kWh
- B 500 kWh
- C 700 kWh
- D 1100 kWh

\*Choose from answers A, B, C or D for both questions.  
\*\* WEB employees are excluded from this contest!

Visit [www.boneirudurodero.org](http://www.boneirudurodero.org) and enter your answers before **March 31<sup>st</sup> 2013**. Winners will receive an email and are also announced in the newspapers.

# Tourism History

## THE 50s, THE AWAKENING OF TOURISM

In the 50s of the past century, tourism in the Leeward Islands of the Netherlands Antilles (Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire) was still in its infancy. But a change in the way American tourists used to spend their vacations benefitted the islands considerably. The attraction of the Caribbean lured tourists away from the continent. In this post-war, baby-boom era, people discovered new ways of vacationing and new destinations. Air travel was booming and became affordable; new tropical destinations, not so far from home, were easy to reach and the Caribbean, with its sunny climate and culture charmed vacationers. Caribbean music played its part as well: Harry Belafonte's calypso music with smash hits like "The Banana Boat Song" ("Day-Oh!") and "Oh Island in the Sun" were played on every radio station and people just wanted to visit these places!

Cuba was the major holiday destination of the 50s, but politics caused the closing of the place for tourism before the decade was over. New destinations opened up then: Puerto Rico, Jamaica, the Windward Islands of the Caribbean and finally, the Netherlands Antilles. In Bonaire, the Tourism Advisory Commission was founded in the early 50s, and its recommendation was to leave the island the way it was, not to engage in major development. They wished to show the island to the tourists like it is, focusing on its cleanliness and the hospitality of its inhabitants. Growth of tourism should be gradual, step by step. One of the tourist

attractions, proposed by the Commission, was a large Sea Aquarium, to be subsidized by the Central Government (of the Netherlands Antilles). The high cost involved, however was the reason that this project never materialized.

The first hotel, "Zeebad" (Sea Bath), was opened in 1952 by Lodewijk D. ("L.D.") Gerharts, a local businessman, on the site of the former WW-II internment camp, south of Kralendijk. In the 50s, it was the only hotel on the island. The numbers of visitors to the island remained very low due to lack of air lift and accommodation. In 1955, the management of the hotel decided to add four bungalows to the property, bringing the total up to 13. In 1956, under new management, brick apartments were built, some of which were even equipped with air-conditioning, something new on the island. A successful initiative that year was a fishing tournament which attracted visitors from Curaçao and Venezuela. The Lieutenant Governor of Bonaire gave a cocktail party at his house for participants and for the winner of the tournament (the Bonaire Fishing Club) there was a cup, donated by the president of Venezuela.

In 1957, the growth of tourism showed stagnation, and the owner of Hotel Zeebad submitted a request to open a casino, which was rejected by the local government. In that same year the general manager of the hotel made a promotional film about the island which was intended for the Venezuelan market, titled "Weekend in Bonaire." It was also the year when the first luxury resort of the Netherlands Antilles was built,



The photographer's daughters, Jeannette and Maria. In the background a DC-3

the Hotel Curaçao Intercontinental. The local government of Bonaire decided to start promoting their island among American tourists who were visiting Curaçao, trying to get them to spend a few days in Bonaire. This led to the idea of establishing a Bonaire Tourist Office in Curaçao. That same year, a tourism brochure, both in English and in Spanish, was published.

The name Zeebad, which did not mean much to American tourists, was changed to Flamingo Beach Club in 1958, using the national symbol of the island and indicating the location of the hotel on the beach. The hotel was subsidized by the central as well as the local government. Two considerably large groups of Venezuelan tourists arrived on charter flights, important events for the island. The number of visitors was a bit up in 1959 but not enough to get the hotel out of its financial troubles.

The idea to establish a Bonaire Tourist Office in Curaçao came from L.D. Gerharts, who had a vision of Tourist Office employees approaching tourists in the streets of Willemstad, Curaçao, trying to get them to visit Bonaire, even if it was for just one day. Furthermore, the Bonaire Tourist Office managers had to get the Dutch airline KLM interested in raising the number of flights from Curaçao to Bonaire, especially in high season. L.D. Gerharts proposed that Toon Abraham, son of Julio Abraham, a well-known Bonaire politician, would become the Bonaire Tourist Office's manager in Curaçao.

Meanwhile the number of visitors to Bonaire was growing: in 1959, 1,275 visitors spent an average of 3.4 nights on the island. In 1960, the number of visitors was up 20%, to 1,555, but the average number of nights

(Continued on page 9)

									
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*Kralendijk from the air in the 50s*

(Continued from page 8)

spent was down to 2.7. The majority of visitors in those days were Dutch citizens living in the Netherlands Antilles: 62%; 20% were Americans and 7% Venezuelans.

As head of the Bonaire Tourist Office in Curaçao, Toon Abraham succeeded in getting tour operators, travel agents and journalists interested in visiting Bonaire to get to know the island. He also talked to cruise line operators, trying to include Bonaire in their schedules. He also went abroad to attend tourist association conferences. A new brochure was printed, called, "Fisherman's Paradise," to be distributed in the States as well as in Latin American countries. Funds were lacking for a major advertisement campaign, however.

In 1960 local authorities became more and more convinced of the necessity to focus on tourism as one of the island's resources. Unemployment was rampant on the island which could not rely on agriculture and fishery alone. With the development of tourism, the need to upgrade the island's infrastructure became obvious: roads, the harbor and the airport, the water and power plants. But building a luxury resort became the main objective of the island's tourism policy. The sister islands of Curaçao (Hotel Intercontinental) and Aruba (Caribbean Hotel) had led the way in showing what it took to meet the demands of a new generation of tourists.

Investors were found to build a similar tourist accommodations on Bonaire, at the best site available: Playa Lechi, blessed with one of the best beaches. In May, 1961, the first stone was laid for a resort with 30 air conditioned rooms.

Hotel Bonaire opened its doors in August 1963. It was time for a new decade with a new perspective for the future. In that year 2,327 tourists visited the island, a rise of 25%. ■ *Evert Bongers*

(source: Bòi Antoin archives)

**Coming next issue: Captain Don and the SCUBA 60s**

*Evert Bongers lives in Aruba where he works at Colegio Arubano High School. He knows Bonaire well where he has been Regatta MC and race announcer since 1996.*



# New Tough Truck



*Director/owner Ismael Max Cicilia next to one of the brand new Amaroks. Director and vehicle are both impressive. (Photograph: J@n Brouwer)*

Bonaire/Kralendijk – On Friday, March 15, Cicilia Motors introduced their new range of Volkswagen vehicles on the island. The models Fox, Tiugan, Voyage and Amarok. Prices start at \$18,595. All cars are made to German Volkswagen standards. Models are made in Germany, Brazil and Argentina. Big surprise is the impressive Volkswagen Amarok. A real Hilux fighter. Prices of the double cabin Amarok start at \$32,995. The Volkswagen Amaroks are made in Argentina. The Toyota Hilux is made in Thailand. When you close the doors of the Amaroks there is a difference compared with the doors of a Hilux. The Volkswagen

Amarok produces a deep and solid sound. First impressions are very positive. I can't wait to have a severe test of this vehicle!

Technical details of the Volkswagen Amarok: Four-cylinder-in-line, two-liter turbo diesel engine producing 103 kilowatts. Six-speed manual transmission. Double cabin pick-up. Load area: 2,52 square meters. Trailer load capacity: 3200 kilograms. Payload: 1000 kilograms. 16-inch light alloy wheels.

Cicilia Motors is at Kaya Industria #7. All Volkswagens are still in the showroom now. But not for long! ■

*J@n Brouwer*



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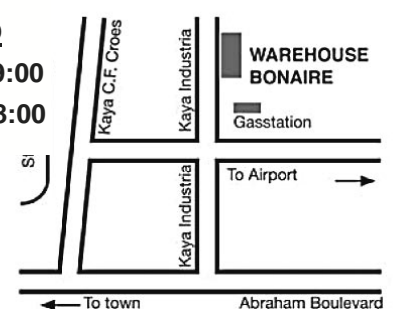
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# Bon Doet *Volunteering for a Better Bonaire*



1

*The SSS crew after the cleanup*



Vanessa Daniel photo

2

*Selison Celestijn, Linomar Isebia, Ericson Vlijt and Shanisayra Rosaria*



3

*Neshomar smiles*

Herman van Leeuwen photo

1. The SSS (Special Security Services) crew cleaned up at Krusada
2. Landscaping at the MBO school
3. Boy Scouts beautifying Rincon
4. The Sailing School signing up
5. Charmata's group and Saka di Man joined up
6. And 7. The Youth Outreach Foundation and Flamingo TV
8. Stinapa took on two jobs.



4

*Gianni M. Van den Heuvel and Ton Nuijten*

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# Bon Doet Success

Last Friday and Saturday it seemed you couldn't travel more than a few hundred meters before you spotted people wearing white Bon Doet T-shirts wielding tools or performing services for needy people.

Fifty different needy social organizations had around 60 chores or other activities that needed doing. The Bon Doet organization provided the structure, tools, supplies and coordination so that willing Bonaireans could help them out. Everyone on Bonaire was welcome to lend a hand. And almost 1,000 people did.

The volunteers consisted of children, teens, adults, seniors, local businesses, service clubs, groups of family members, colleagues and friends. Several departments from the Island Government as well as youngsters from the high school SGB and the continuing education program FORMA also participated.

Roosje van der Hoek, of the CVDH consultancy that coordinated several elements of Bon Doet, told *The Reporter* that while the final totals weren't available at press time that "This year, we see a growth in Bon Doet, not only a growth in jobs and volunteers, but a growth in enthusiasm. We feel that slowly but surely Bon Doet is getting a place in the heart of the community and that the message we want to convey is carried out spontaneously. Because no matter who you are, and where you are from, working together we are able to do a lot!" ■

L.D./Press release



An elderly widow's home and yard were rehabilitated so she could move back in.



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## Bonairean Humor

From the Papiamentu language newspaper *èxtra*

Jose was climbing a tree to steal apples. The owner of the tree arrived and said: Hey, wait a minute, I am going to tell your father what you are doing. Jose looked up into the tree and said: Dad, there's a man down here that wants to talk to you.

Two friends ran into each other. The one said to the other: My wife spends every night going from bar to bar. Sorry, man, does she drink a lot? No, she's looking for me.

Buchi asked a man: Sir, would you like me to walk your dog for you?

The man answered: How much do you charge?

Buchi: \$10 for small dogs and \$5 for big dogs.

The man, a little surprised, asked Buchi: You got it wrong, why not charge \$10 for the big ones and \$5 for the small ones?

Buchi: Because with the small ones I have to walk next to them, the big ones I just get on and ride.

Pedro's mother told him: You told your sister that she was ugly, now she is crying. Go tell her you're sorry.

Pedro went over to his sister and said: I'm sorry that you're ugly.

Buchi went to school and said to his teacher: Teacher, can I greet you with a kiss today?

Teacher said: Of course! I see that you are becoming a sweet boy, no?

Buchi said: No, I have the flu and I want to give it to you.

Juan asked his mother: Mama, is it true that people came from monkeys?

Mother said: I don't know, son. Your father never introduced me to your grandmother.

Roro's mother scolded him: Why did you hit your brother with a chair?

Roro: Because the sofa was too heavy.

Juan: How is it going with the exam?

Buchi: Terrible because I couldn't answer a single question.

Juan: I couldn't answer any questions either.

Buchi: You're stupid, friend, now the teacher is going to think we copied from each other.

A very old man, between 90 and 100 years old, very well dressed with hair neatly cut, elegant clothes, a flower in his suit coat and smelling good went into a very luxurious bar for a drink. Nearby sat an older woman in her 80's. She was a very elegant lady. The old man decided to get up and go sit next to her. He ordered a drink, took a sip, turned to her and said: Do I come here often? ■

Translated by  
Jane Madden-Disko



## Picture Yourself With The Reporter In Santo Domingo, R.D.



This is a first! A *Bonaire Reporter* cover girl with a copy of the very issue she was featured in. Vera Ghazzouli writes, "I was in Santo Domingo, a beautiful and friendly island with a lot of history and things to do. Behind me is the statue of Cristobal Colon. That's me with one of the best *Reporters* ever :)" ■

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## Fitness Ideas

If you train at a gym to build your strength you will ask yourself what techniques should you use: Free Weights or Machines?

It's a classic question with no right or wrong answer. If you want an effective strength training workout, which option will best help you reach your goals? **The Bon Bida Spa and Gym** has equipment for both free weight and machine training. It also offers Les Mills strength building classes like Body Pump for even faster results.

Most certified personal trainers recommend that people try to include both free weights (dumbbells) and machines in their strength training workouts.

There are some advantages of using machines:

- ◆ They are easier to use (proper technique, form, etc.).
- ◆ They better isolate one muscle for a more intense workout.
- ◆ They allow you to lift heavier weights.
- ◆ They reduce workout time (less time spent setting up, changing, and putting weights away).
- ◆ You are less likely to injure yourself when using machines.

The disadvantages of using machines are directly related to the advantages. Most of the things we do in daily life involve using



A Bon Bida Body Pump Class

multiple muscles and joints at the same time. Because machines isolate muscles and work them separately, you end up making individual muscles stronger but aren't training yourself for "functional fitness." Likewise, because machines are adjusting, balancing, and supporting your body, the smaller muscles that would normally do these tasks in real life often don't get exercised or strengthened.

But by incorporating both free weights and machines into your workouts, you can utilize the advantages of both and avoid the limitations of relying on either one by itself. If you find the idea of using the free weights in the gym too intimidating, Bon Bida has a "cable cross" machine that offers many of the benefits of free weights with the convenience and safety of a machine. Ask a Bon Bida staff member to help you find it and figure out how to use it. ■

G.D./ Spark People website

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**LOST- Wedding Ring- REWARD** Lost wedding ring in vicinity of Cliff Dive Site. Ring has two bands separated with letters reading RUTZ. Contact [mrutz@comcast.net](mailto:mrutz@comcast.net)



**HP Laserjet P2035.** Perfect condition. Almost new. Only \$199. Call 717-8819 8 am to 5 pm.

**FOUND: 3 keys on a ring.** Phone 782-7062 also 786-2590.

**Attention ART-lovers:** For Sale by art-collector, various paintings of famous Haitian Masters. Viewings by appointment. Call: 795 - 0555 or 786 - 3358

**For Sale: Scrambler Dive Kayak** as well as assorted dive gear. Call 717-0161.

**I am a musical idiot that wants to play like Verdine -** Too old and too dumb to learn scales or sheets. I want someone to teach me (by feel or sound) the bass cover for September (Earth Wind and Fire) and ... I want to be close to Verdine. Can you help? I think I could be a good student but I would like to accomplish this before I turn to dust. I have a Yamaha Bass (which I can't tune) and a small practice amp (which I don't know how to operate.) Weekly lessons? Call Brian 701 3527 or 717 3527 Thank you.



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**Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides**

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri 22	02:27 0.07 ft	08:37 0.67 ft	16:37 -0.08 ft	21:44 0.27 ft		6:38	18:46
Sat 23	03:15 0.08 ft	09:17 0.61 ft	17:07 -0.05 ft	22:22 0.31 ft		6:37	18:46
Sun 24	04:14 0.09 ft	10:01 0.53 ft	17:36 -0.01 ft	23:03 0.37 ft		6:37	18:46
Mon 25	05:27 0.09 ft	10:53 0.44 ft	18:04 0.02 ft	23:48 0.44 ft		6:36	18:46
Tue 26	06:53 0.07 ft	11:57 0.35 ft	18:34 0.05 ft			6:35	18:46
Wed 27	00:37 0.53 ft	08:21 0.01 ft	13:14 0.27 ft	19:08 0.06 ft	<b>Full Moon</b>	6:35	18:46
Thu 28	01:27 0.63 ft	09:39 -0.07 ft	14:36 0.22 ft	19:50 0.07 ft		6:34	18:46
Fri 29	02:19 0.73 ft	10:43 -0.15 ft	15:50 0.20 ft	20:40 0.07 ft		6:34	18:46
Sat 30	03:11 0.82 ft	11:37 -0.23 ft	16:51 0.20 ft	21:36 0.05 ft		6:33	18:46
Sun 31	04:03 0.89 ft	12:25 -0.29 ft	17:43 0.22 ft	22:35 0.04 ft		6:32	18:46
Mon 01	04:55 0.93 ft	13:11 -0.33 ft	18:29 0.25 ft	23:35 0.02 ft		6:32	18:47
Tue 02	05:46 0.94 ft	13:55 -0.34 ft	19:15 0.30 ft			6:31	18:47
Wed 03	<b>Last Quarter</b>	00:35 0.01 ft	06:37 0.92 ft	14:38 -0.33 ft	20:00 0.35 ft	6:30	18:47
Thu 04		01:37 0.00 ft	07:29 0.85 ft	15:19 -0.29 ft	20:47 0.41 ft	6:30	18:47
Fri 05		02:42 0.00 ft	08:21 0.75 ft	16:00 -0.24 ft	21:35 0.47 ft	6:29	18:47

**REAL ESTATE, RENTALS, ETC...**

**Bonaire Del Sol Apartment for Rent** in Hato. 1 Bedroom 1 Bathroom Living room & Kitchen \$ 750, - p/m 2 persons excl. utilities; \$650, - p/m 1 person excl. utilities, T.V. & Internet. Close to Saint James School of Medicine. 100m from the sea. Easy walking distance to shops. Cell 599 785 0918

**New and beautiful Studio in Santa Barbara for rent** from 1st April. 36m<sup>2</sup>, full furnished, Pool, W-LAN, Cable TV, Water, Electricity, all incl. US \$ 580,00 per month. E-mail: [bauer.paul@t-online.de](mailto:bauer.paul@t-online.de)

**Apartment 2 bedroom** AC - 2 bath Fully furnished, excellent breeze Internet, TV, dishwasher/washing mach.

Kaya Grandi, close to town center/beach Long term rental. Available soon. USD 1000/month exc. utilities  
 Tel. 701-9632 (Bonaire) Email: [eric.vandersar@gmail.com](mailto:eric.vandersar@gmail.com)

House for rent at Belnem. 2 Bed-

rooms, 1 bathroom. Furnished or unfurnished. Rent price includes garden-maintenance. Low rent price. Phone 785-9900 or 717-2698

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Te huur na 10 April. Tevens guesthouse beschikbaar vanaf heden, 100 Dollar pw [belnemzuid@live.nl](mailto:belnemzuid@live.nl)



**Budget Marine Bonaire is looking for a Part Time Sales Associate**

Applicant must have experience with boats and knowledge of marine equipment, repair materials and experience in sales. A big plus is experience in solar and other alternative energies. Applicant must also be competent with computers, enthusiastic and ready to learn. Please email resumes to [bonaire@budgetmarine.com](mailto:bonaire@budgetmarine.com) or stop by in person at Budget Marine, Kaya Carlos Nicolaas 4.

**Sudoku Puzzle**

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

**Sudoku Solution**

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

# SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

## AIRLINES

**Divi Divi Air**- Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Now flying to Aruba.

## APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

**City Shop**, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances, furniture, TV, computers, cell phones and more. In-store financing too.



## AUTOMOBILE DEALER

Check out **AutoCity Bonaire** for the widest selection of new car brands on Bonaire including Chevrolet, Honda, Isuzu, Suzuki, Subaru. Used cars too.

Complete service department. Hertz rentals.

## BANK

**ORCO Bank** offers one-on-one attention, personal banking. Each client is a person, not a number.

Office in the historic building at Kaya Grandi 48.

## BARS

**Zazu Bar at the Harbour Village Marina** is all you expect in a great bar. Super bartender, quality drinks and friendly service. Plus Bonaire's only Rum Bar- over 50 types!

## BEAUTY PARLOR

**Hair Affair**. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing.

## CARS AND BIKES

**De Freewieler** sells bikes and all kinds of bike accessories. They do professional repairs on almost anything on two wheels. **Have your keys made here too.**

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## DENTURE REPAIR

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## ON and IN the WATER

**Budget Marine** has what anyone with a boat needs, and if it's not in stock they can order it quickly. You can also find special hardware for general use and components for solar and wind electric systems.

**Carib Inn** is Bonaire's third oldest Dive Shop, open since 1980, is a 10-room resort tailoring to small-scale resort lovers. Well stocked scuba store, best prices on dive equipment. The place where others take their gear for repair.

**Dive Friends** has four dive schools and three retail shops so you always get the best deals and can be assured of top notch training. Remodeled shop open now.

## UNDERWATER VIDEO

**ScubaVision** - Pro video of your Bonaire vacation, above and/or below the water with a custom DVD by Bonaire's top videographer, Hendrik Wuyts.

## GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

**Green Label** has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Off Kaya Industria, behind Lucky Supermarket.

## HOME CARE

**Bonaire Second Home Care** can handle all the needs of second home owners on Bonaire including inspection, management and cleaning.

## OPTICIAN

**Buena Vista Optics** is Bonaire's most up-to-date place to get eyeglasses or contact lenses. The combination of experienced personnel and advanced equipment and technology make it a top value

## PHOTOGRAPHER

**Bonaire's creative video and still photographer for the wedding or other important events in your life.** **ScubaVision**, Kaya Grandi 6. See website [scubavision.info](http://scubavision.info) or ScubaVision on YouTube

## REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS

**Sunbelt Realty** offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and visit.



## RESTAURANTS

**Bistro de Paris**— Waterfront location at the Harbour Village Marina. Superb menu, genuine French dishes in a waterfront ambiance. Airco if you want it.

**La Balandra at The Harbour Village Resort** offers Bonaire's most spectacular setting. Superb cuisine, top notch service. Eat on the deck or with your feet in the sand.

**Pasa Bon Pizza**—Bonaire's quality pizza-Best ingredients, best baking and best taste. Great salads and lasagna too. Eat in or take away.

## RETAIL

**Benetton**, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

**Bona Dea** is Bonaire's newest Caribbean life style shop featuring good taste gifts, apparel, shoes, accessories and home décor

## SECURITY

**Special Security Services** will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.

## STORAGE

**The Storehouse (Mangazina** in Papiamentu) offers Secure Storage for Vehicles, Household Items, Diving and Sporting Gear, Business Files or Inventory. Across from the northern hotel row.



## SHIPPING

**Rocargo Freight** Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent. What would we do without their superb services?**



## SPAS/GYM/HEALTH

**Bon Bida Spa & Gym** World Class fitness and health facility- Classes, top notch machines, trainers. Day, monthly or annual rates.



## SUPERMARKETS

### TOP Supermarket—

Conveniently located **downtown** at the old Culti-mara location. Featuring a complete selection including fresh meat, fruit and vegetables.



**Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria**—Big air conditioned market with a friendly staff, the largest selection and lowest prices on the island. They stock what you need.



## MADE ON BONAIRE

**Semper Kontentu goat cheese.** Ask for it at restaurants and look for it in the markets. Lovingly handmade. Mugs available.

## WATER TAXI

**Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry.** Ride the *Kantika di Amor*. Hotel or downtown pickup The only water taxi to Klein Bonaire with an easy on/off built-in ramp at Bonaire Nautico (It Rains Fishes Restaurant)

**A Directory listing is free for regular advertisers in The Reporter**

**Call Laura at 786-6518 for information**

# The Mystery Gourmet

## L'AMUSE AT HOTEL CENTRAL

The recommendation of friends provided the impetus for the Mystery Gourmet and his equally easily encouraged spouse to visit the "petit-restaurant" housed by Central Hotel Bonaire located in downtown Kralendijk. The boutique hotel sports 20 rooms, all are modern, attractive and comfortable. The small cafe serves to fill out the services of this pleasant package.

L'Amuse is relatively compact, with indoor and outdoor seating, the tables and chairs being exceptionally comfortable, and an overhead awning being available should any guests wish to avoid Bonaire's noontday sun. The deck appears to be inviting evening dining especially. The decor is remarkably pleasant, the kitchen being open to the dining area, an arrangement that always tends to reassure one as to the food preparation process.

The spooky pair chose indoors for lunch, were greeted by an extremely attractive, clearly well experienced server who, in lieu of menus, on request, read the



Caesar salad, in a pastry cup with prawns

chalkboard postings for the myopic twosome. Ice water was provided, and also two wine glasses with a tasting of both the house and another Italian Pinot Grigio vintage for our approval. The thirsty pair preferred the house wine.

When the time for decision for our meals came, Chef Richard approached the table and, through a bit of skillful detective work, found exactly what dishes we did or did not prefer. Thereafter, he suggested he design meals, not exactly on the chalkboard but to our exact tastes. The Gourmet ordered Caesar salad, served in a pastry cup with prawns, the spouse, pasta with a grilled sirloin steak and a salad with a cream dressing.



Chef Richard returned to his kitchen, there was a burst of activity and within a few minutes, the entrees were served.

Without reservation, the picky pair can testify to dishes without equal on this or perhaps any island. Everything is expertly prepared, seasoned and clearly from fresh ingredients. A better Caesar dressing, better herb and excellent extra-virgin olive oil seasoned al dente pasta cannot be imagined. The steak was perfectly seasoned and grilled. The bread quality is excellent.

Thus, if the reader desires a meal with pleasant ambiance, friendly, expert service and food from fresh, first quality ingredients, skillfully crafted for your personal taste by a five star quality chef, L'Amuse should be your destination. ■

Story & photo by The Mysterious Gourmet and Spouse



The open kitchen



Interior seating area



### Ronald Verhoeven

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Tel: 00599-7172886



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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
Thursday	21-Mar-13	<i>Emerald Princess</i>	0700-1400	3100	Princess Cruises
Friday	22-Mar-13	<i>Westerdam</i>	0700-1900	1918	HAL
Monday	25-Mar-13	<i>Delphin</i>	1300-1900	470	Kreuzfahrten
Wednesday	27-Mar-13	<i>Grandeur of the Seas</i>	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Wednesday	27-Mar-13	<i>Maasdam</i>	0800-1700	1258	HAL
Sunday	31-Mar-13	<i>Island Sky</i>	0600-1800	114	Noble Caledonia
Tuesday	2-Apr-13	<i>Eclipse</i>	0700-1800	2852	Celebrity/RCCL
Wednesday	3-Apr-13	<i>Grandeur of the Seas</i>	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL

### CLOSE-IN EVENTS

**Wednesday, March 20—Vernal Equinox— First day of Spring**

**Monday, March 25 - Free Seminar on Reef Fish Identification, led by visiting REEF expert fish id'er Kim White, CIEE, Kaya Gob. DeBrot, Tel. 717-4140**

**Friday, March 29—Good Friday— Legal Holiday**

**Sunday, March 31 and Monday, April 1—Easter Sunday—Legal Holidays**

**Saturday, April 6—Farmers' Market at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8 am—12 noon. Produce, plants, baked goods, preserves, lunch, drinks. A real Bonairean event!**

**Sunday, April 7—Fun Bike Race by Xtreme Sports Bonaire, at Yatu Baku, call DeFreewieler, 717-8545 or 786-8545. More on page 3 and next edition**

**Saturday, April 13—Fund Raising BBQ, Colegio San Bernardo Group 8, at the school, 12—2:30 Tickets \$10 from parents or call 786-7869. More on page 3**

**Tuesday, April 30—Rincon Day, Comcabon 29th Annual Playa-Rincon Race. Sign up at Karel's Beach Bar April 27, 5 pm, \$3 inscription. More on page 2**

### 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.

• **Petanque- 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

**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

#### 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: 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 Resort 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; [Martyjin@gmail.com](mailto:Martyjin@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. De-brot. 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

**Take The Reporter Home—1-year subscription:** By mail to US \$75; By mail to Europe \$170. By Internet, Free (asking a \$35 donation.) For information about subscriptions, stories or advertising in **The Bonaire Reporter**, PO Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean; phone (599) 786-6518, 786-6125, E-mail: [info@bonairereporter.com](mailto:info@bonairereporter.com)

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# Guest Editorial

## A Spot On Bonaire



© Bert Raaphorst

A long time ago there used to be a beautiful watapana tree here. On one side it was hanging over a small country road along the sea and on the other side it hung over a small beach with coral stones. Under that tree you could fall asleep in the shade, look out over the sea or dream far away to the horizon.

One day the bulldozers from Johan and Bertus arrived. They were going to build a boulevard subsidized by The Netherlands. There, where once there used to be a ramshackle road with iguanas slithering away. Before we realized what was happening the old watapana tree was gone and was replaced by a lot of concrete and asphalt.

Stimulated by our disappointment and by bribing them every day with coffee and cake during their lunch break, we arranged for Bertus and Johan to build us some concrete stairs at the seaside. This was a diversion from the official planning. The stairs were actually built and later our gardener Ricardo planted a few trees there at the seaside. Two deck chairs were constructed and a Heineken umbrella completed the whole scene. This all happened with the silent permission of DROB, the environmental planning service.

So then, this is my spot. That is where I meet the same heron with the yellow socks, looking for fish along the waterline. That's where I follow the roving frigates, only focused on the bloody fish-offal left behind by fishermen and by predator fish. And let's not forget the old pelican, almost blind because of the salt water and cataract, painfully looking for its last meal. And as I sit, dozing away, I see hermit crabs hidden between the coral. They drag themselves forward with their small shells, as if on their way to a meeting with other hermits, or they are watched by sandpipers by the waterline who pick them.

Before the sun sets I visit my underwater friends: a lost turtle, a stingray, trumpet fish, a whole school of angel fish and sometimes a few angry looking barracudas.

The tires lying on the bottom of the sea, some engines and many tangled ropes I get for free in this incredible seaquarium.

Day in day out I enjoy my spot and have no problem cleaning up the junk of nightly visitors. They litter beer cans and the remains of French fries and fatty mayonnaise. Once in a while

I find the spots and remnants of a wild night of love. You know what I mean—those things Pope Benedict disliked so much and which are the reason why -also his fault- there are too many Aids patients in Africa.

The arrival of the cruise ships does not pass by my spot without consequences. The tourists with their colored bracelets shuffle by, on the lookout for some shade on a beach that is not so easy to find on Bonaire. They flop down -more than I care for- with their overweight, heavily covered with greasy oil bodies -on the inviting deck chairs. Sometimes there are whole families.

I decide to do something "mean," and on my beach chairs I paint, egotistically and pathetically, the words "private," hoping that everybody will stay away. But forget it! Many tourists pass by my mildly threatening text, but nevertheless people -cruise tourists as well as well-known islanders- settle down on the deck chairs. So should I erase that text?

I resign myself to all that is happening and decide only to assert myself when at the end of the day I myself cannot enjoy my wonderful spot. And that goes something like this.

"Good afternoon. Do you mind if I sit beside you on one of my own chairs?" The reactions vary from "Oh, sorry" to "Yes, that's o.k." and everything in between. And then two out of three visitors leave my spot with their tails between their legs or with their heads raised high.

I really enjoy those who remain seated. They seem like people with great pith who do not let themselves be chased away by some feeble text or maybe they are looking for some company and might have something to say too.

And that's the way things have been going for years now. These conversations on my spot at the seaside are like contacts you make on a long plane flight, sitting beside a complete stranger. Usually it starts out with some small talk and sometimes it ends with a complete, intriguing life story as an aposiopsis. And because you won't be seeing each other again, you get the feeling that you can't stay behind, and in the end you open your own soul as well. That really can be a relief and could save on an expensive psychiatrist or such soul searcher. You could say you're anonymously looking into each other's life. Anony-

## DID YOU KNOW?

That sea grass beds have the ability to accumulate as much carbon as a forest? Less than .2% of the world's oceans are made up of sea grass beds, but those small sea meadows can contain more than 10% of all the carbon settled in the oceans! The beautiful underwater sea gardens can build their carbon levels for many centuries and can store up to 90% of their entire carbon intake! The problem is that sea grass patches worldwide are being damaged and destroyed at an alarming rate. This is disturbing because the beds are very important for filtering sediments and they are also home to many different sea creatures. If conservation efforts for this fragile ecosystem don't increase we could have a nutrient problem and also a loss of entire habitats

Jennifer Cheatham photo



Sea Grass beds in Lac Bay

for local sea creatures. ■  
Ashtyn Isaak

Ashtyn Isaak is a Marine Biology Major and Chemistry Minor from Oregon State University. She is studying on Bonaire for the 2012 fall semester at the CIEE Research Station.

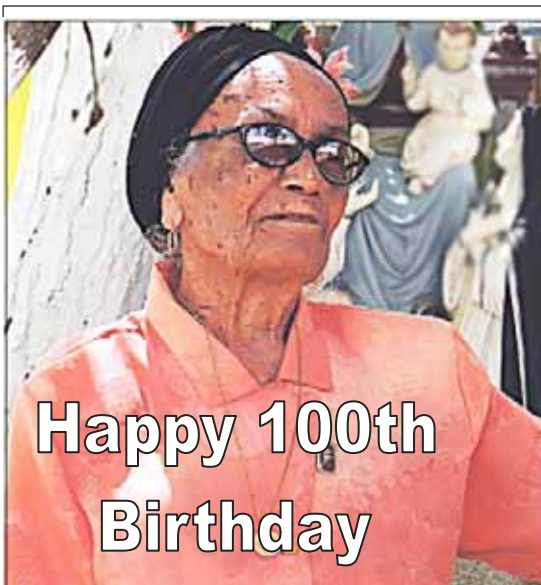


mously and intimately. Have you ever experienced something like that?

After several seasons, with many wind reversals and bad weather, the deck chairs have to be painted once again. First the brown varnish and then again with white paint "private" with those horrible square painter's letters. I hesitate. "Don't be so childish, let those people sit." I am told. But I don't want just anybody. I want people who have something to say, who disobey my text for whatever reason, and remain seated and together with me, watch the trees that were planted by Ricardo 15 years ago. And of course to have a nice conversation again. In the meantime the trees are as big as the watapana tree from years ago.

In the end I take the brush and paint with white paint: "private." In this spot I want to be alone, but not always.

It's also a little bit quiet being alone with birds, fishes and trees. They hardly say anything at all, which is really too bad. ■  
Guus Gerritsen



Happy 100th Birthday

Last Friday, March 15, Raymunda Virginia Pourier, better known as Mona, or with greater respect, as Mai Mona, became 100 years old. She's Rincon's oldest resident, although not Bonaire's oldest person. She's still sound in mind and body and feels her good condition is a "precious gift from God." During her long life she witnessed many changes, lived on a kunuku and served for 23 years in the Rincon post office. Congratulations on successfully reaching such an advanced age in style. ■ Press release

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# Pet of the Week



Divi

With her long luxurious fur, brilliant green/grey eyes and sultry moves, "Divi" reminds you of a beautiful princess in a flowing gown making her way through an adoring crowd, certain to be the toast of the town. But don't let her royal demeanor fool you....throw her a fuzzy toy and very quickly she's buried under a blanket playing with the "prey" to save her kingdom from the wretched mouse! Divi is about 3 years old and very much a "people cat." She loves to be stroked, held....and brushed! Which is a great characteristic, since long haired cats always need a little help with grooming to prevent matted fur and ingesting of hairballs. She "plays well with others" but would also be very happy in "one-cat" home.

Divi is not only beautiful but she is a good-sized cat, who will turn heads when she walks into a room....and will warm hearts as she settles in next to you for a long nap. Divi is healthy, vaccinated and waiting for your royal coach to arrive and take her to your castle. You can meet Divi and all the other cats and dogs who are waiting to give you unconditional love at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road. Open Monday- Saturday, 9am -1pm and 3 -5pm. WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com ■ Jane Madden Disko

## SHELTER NEWS:

\*Last Friday, as part of the island-wide **Bon Doet** volunteer days campaign, more than 16 volunteers from the Bonaire community helped the Animal Shelter clean up and refurbish the grounds of the **Pakus di Pruga (Flea Market Store)** that the Shelter operates on Saturdays at Kaya Simon Bolivar 26. Be sure to stop in to see the new look and pick up some great second hand items or drop off household items, clothes or books that you no longer need. Pakus de Pruga is open every Saturday 8am-5pm. THANK YOU TO ALL THE BON DOET VOLUNTEERS!

\*Looking for a good home for your **old license plates**? Thanks to the **Bonaire Lions Club** who are collecting them the Bonaire Animal Shelter can make money to help keep the Shelter open by selling these plates for \$10 each. Thank you, Lions! The plates are being sold at the Shelter, at the Cruise Market and at Carib Inn.

\*The cats at the Shelter have had a rough time living in the current cat cage. The roof leaks, sometimes the numbers of cats make it too crowded so diseases can be transmitted too easily, it's too dark. But the Stichting Dierenlot in Holland has offered funds to make a complete **new cat cage**, however, those funds must be matched by an equal amount that the Shelter raises. Please help make this happen. **Donate to the Bonaire Animal Shelter (cat cage fund) MCB Account #102-37800.**

\*The **Pet Shop in the office of the Shelter** has a lot of new items for cats and dogs: shampoo, Front-line, small pet doors, collars, leashes, toys, beds. And something brand new we saw this week are matching collars and leashes with reflective tape – walk your dog(s) in the evenings – in safety. Remember, all these items are donated,



At the last monthly **Kriabon Farmers' Market**, Burnett Felida and Germain Ricardo put on an informal Paso Fino show. Don't miss the next Farmers' Market, Saturday, April 6, at Kriabon on the Kaminda Yatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am-noon.

so prices are super low and all proceeds go to the Shelter. ■ Jane Madden Disko / Laura DeSalvo



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## CALCULATING EASTER AND MORE

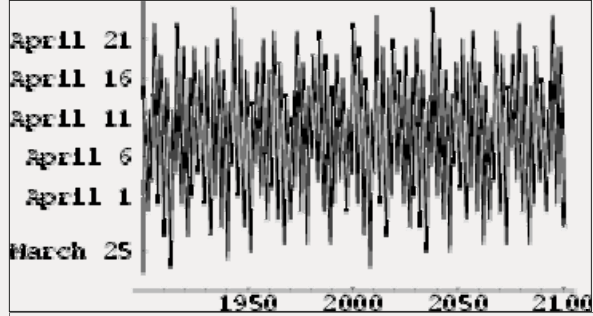
Did you spot the comet yet? Comets are named for their discoverers. Halley, Tempel, Hale-Bopp, Bennett, West, and Shoemaker-Levy are among the best-known HUMAN comet discoverers. PanSTARRS is different. It's an acronym for Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System, an array of astronomical instruments that makes automated photographs of the night sky and utilizes computers to find moving objects in the photographs. Lone observers still find comets, but increasingly, robotic systems like PanSTARRS are making most of the discoveries.

### OVERVIEW for the end of March

The Sun crossed into the constellation Pisces on the 12th. It is climbing steeply now and daylight increases rapidly. On Wednesday, March 20, at 11h02, the Vernal Equinox occurs, when the Sun is directly overhead at the Earth's Equator. The Sun-Earth distance at the time is 148,989,865 km. The northern astronomical season of spring begins and lasts for 92.74 days. If the Earth had no atmosphere, day and night at this time would be exactly equal all over the planet except at the poles, but due to atmospheric refraction, this scenario occurs some days earlier. The Sun rises and sets precisely due east and west.

March is the best month to observe the mysterious Zodiacal Light during evenings when the Moon is not present in the sky and you are well away from light pollution. Look towards the west when twilight has faded and you should see a faint cone of light pointing southwards at a steep angle of 60°. It's best to observe it at the very end of the month. This phenomenon is caused by the Sun illuminating the disc of fine dust, which is the remnant of solar system formation 4.5 thousand million years ago.

Constellations visible in the south around midnight are as follows: Leo, the western part of Virgo, Crater, and Hydra. The



The possible dates for the Paschal full moon are March 21 through April 18. This gives the date of Easter as March 22 through April 25. The days on which Easter occurs repeat with a period of 1,900,000 years, and consecutive Easters are always separated by 350, 357, 378, or 385 days

Plough (Big Dipper), which is part of the constellation of Ursa Major, the Great Bear, is at the zenith, directly overhead.

### THE MOON

The full Moon is on the 27<sup>th</sup>. This is the Paschal Full Moon because it falls after the Vernal Equinox. The Paschal Full Moon determines the date of Easter Day. The date of this important Christian festival is always the Sunday, immediately after the first full moon, which follows the Vernal Equinox

### NAKED EYE PLANETS

Mars, Venus, and Uranus all cluster tightly together behind the Sun on the 29<sup>th</sup>, thus becoming "invisible." This simultaneous disappearance of our two closest planetary neighbors, Mars and Venus, ensures that both will remain challenging for the next few months.

During March the brightest planetary object visible in the sky is Jupiter. Jupiter, high in the south at sunset in the constellation of Taurus the Bull remains the brightest object in the night sky just after midnight at the end of the month.

Saturn, the brightest object within the constellation boundaries of Libra, is the brightest object in that part of the sky. The nearest bright star in the vicinity is Spica in Virgo, 17° to the west of Saturn. During the month Saturn rises in the SE sky during the late evening.

■ Bob Berman



# THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

Early March 2013

**ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)** You need a change and you need to earn more cash. Don't reveal information that is personal or confidential. Don't let peers distract you or push their work your way. Your best efforts will come through hard work. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21)** You need time to make things better. Make sure that you get legal matters checked out thoroughly. Observations will be far more productive. Emotionally you won't see things accurately. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**GEMINI (May 22-June 21)** Pleasure trips will be most enjoyable if you take them with that special person in your life. Take time to do something nice for yourself. Jealous coworkers may try to sabotage your attempts to get ahead. Be supportive in order to avoid confrontations. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22)** Dazzle them with your intellectual conversation. Your partner could make you angry if they steal your thunder or embarrass you in front of others. Keep an eye on your weight. Be careful when dealing with female members of your family. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**LEO (July 23-Aug 22)** Look into making changes to your personal papers and don't neglect those bills that have been piling up. Your time, not your cash, will do a lot more for your relationship. Make love, not war, and all will be fine. Tempers may flare if you haven't been completely honest about your intentions or your whereabouts. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)** Your family may be feeling neglected and unloved. You are best to work at home if you can. You are best to ask questions if you aren't certain about issues that are confronting you. Minor health problems may flare up if you haven't been taking care of yourself or have been burning the candle at both ends. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)** Interaction with colleagues will only be upsetting.

2013

You can make major decisions regarding your professional direction. You can enhance your cash flow if you pick up additional skills. Someone is trying to pull the wool over your eyes, and if you're gullible, it may cost you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)** You will have the discipline and fortitude to accomplish what you want this month. Travel will be on your mind, but you should be sure that you've got all your work up-to-date. Be sure that the person you're drawn to is not already involved. You can make new friends by taking part in social events involving colleagues. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)** You can expect to have a problem with your lover. Don't put off the things that they have asked you to do. Abrupt changes in your home may send you for a loop. You will do well with clients this month. Stick to your work and avoid emotional confrontations. Social events should be the highlight of your day. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)** Opportunities for romance will flourish through travel. If boredom has set in, find new and unique directions that offer interesting friendships. You can make alterations to your appearance that everyone will admire. The advice you get this month may be based on false information. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)** Your emotions are soaring and if you don't get your way, look out world. You will be able to make favorable changes in your living quarters. You may find out that someone is trying to undermine you. You will have to watch out for minor health problems related to stress. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)** You may think gifts will win their heart, but it could add stress from lack of funds. Focus on forming business partnerships. You will gain a lot if you listen. Watch your weight gain due to water retention. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.



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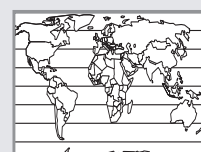
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