

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** April 5-19, 2013; Year 20, Issue 7  
**The REPORTER**  
**BES Island News Too**

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**Big Bonaire Four Day  
Camping Weekend**  
**see page 11**



**C**amping during the Easter holidays is a long-standing Bonairean tradition. Jan “Tokai” Felida and his beloved wife Olga, pictured above, are no exception. They drove into town last Thursday, March 28, to do last minute shopping for their camping holiday with their homemade camping trailer (see related story on page 5) near the beach at Tolo/Ol’ Blue.

All over the island you could feel the camping fever. It is Easter time and we want to camp. In a supermarket along Kaya Korona I met a mother and her son. They had bought thirty (30!) cans of starting fluid for their barbecue. They plan to spend a couple of nights in a small wooden hut at Lac Bay. ■

*Story & photo by J@n Brouwer*

# Flotsam and Jetsam

## BOINAIRE The REPORTER

Two weekends ago people from throughout the Dutch Kingdom voted for their favorite social organization. In total, 142,827 people voted, 9,701 in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. The winners of the first round on Bonaire were: **Jong Bonaire Youth Foundation, Fundashon Cocari and The Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation**

►The decision by the First Chamber (Senate) of the Dutch Parliament to halt a change in the constitution to formalize the status of the overseas special public entities can be considered a victory for the BES Islands. **The agreed-on general evaluation of the new relations within the kingdom five years after they went into effect on 10-10 now will have to take place first.** Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba had called for a postponement, which fell on deaf ears in the Second Chamber when a majority approved the amendment in October last year. The Senate in The Hague decided differently last week, however.

►THE HAGUE--**The inauguration of King Willem-Alexander on April 30 is expected to cost the Dutch state some €5 million.** Prime Minister Mark Rutte announced on Tuesday. This is in addition to the €7 million already budgeted by the city of Amsterdam, which is hosting the event. The cost of security is not included, said PM Mark Rutte at a press conference.

Foreign guests will pay their own travel expenses but will receive a two-night stay in a hotel. "Five million euros may sound like a lot of money in these financially difficult times," said Rutte, "but it is comparable to what was spent on the inauguration of Queen Beatrix in 1980."

Rutte also announced that nearly 1,100 journalists are expected to attend the festivities, which will end with a concert on the Museumplein of violinist and waltz expert André Rieu with his orchestra.

►THE HAGUE--**King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima will visit all six Dutch Caribbean islands from November 14 to 24,** announced Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte last Tuesday. It is the specific wish of the King and Queen to involve the islands as much as possible in the inauguration ceremony on April 30.

**Primary schools throughout the Kingdom will participate in the King's Games on April 26.** Some 4,000 schools will participate with in total 800,000 children involved.

►VATICAN CITY—**Prince Willem-Alexander, Princess Máxima and Prime Minister**



**Mark Rutte were among the crowds in St Peter's Square watching the inauguration of Pope Francis I.** After the ceremony, the Dutch royal couple were presented to the new Pope, shaking hands and exchanging a few words. Máxima, who just as the Pope hails from Argentina and is a Catholic, was dressed all in black, with her head covered by a black lace mantilla. Willem-Alexander wore white tie and his medals.

Will the Pope attend their inauguration later this month?

►THE HAGUE—A company called **Bullseye WiFi plans to offer fast and free broadband Internet in the centers of the 37 biggest towns in The Netherlands** during the second half of the year.

Anyone will be able to go online by logging-in anonymously. "With this, The Netherlands will be the first European country to provide all big towns with free WIFI," said Bullseye Director George Seton. Now if Bonaire can be included in that plan...

►BONAIRE--**The policy towards foreigners on the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands must be made more just and simple,** according to independent Island Councilman and governing coalition member Rafael Santana. In a letter to the chair, he asked several questions about the procedure on premature termination of employment contracts, the maximum age of 45 years for work permits, the residential gaps and the maximum residence of three years.

He wants to know if the Executive Council is prepared to raise this matter with the Dutch Government. The Netherlands is responsible for the alien admittance policy, including their permits. "This policy is not in the interest of the people and creates problems for both employers and employees," wrote Santana.

"Foreign employees are practically unable to switch employers. Under the Netherlands Antilles foreigners could reside on the islands up to their 49th year, but this has been changed to 45." Santana says this is pointless, because the retirement age is 65 in the Caribbean Netherlands. "People coming to the islands at the age of 5 could still work another 15 years before retiring.

The current policy compels the foreign employee to leave the island after three years in order to

submit a new permit request. Santana asked why foreigners had to leave the island, just when they had become used to the local customs, culture and their work. Finally, more flexibility is required with changing the reason of residence. Currently, it's not allowed to change a work permit into a permit for cohabitation. This isn't fair either, said Santana.

►A total of 4.5 pounds of narcotics has been found by members of Customs of the Caribbean Netherlands in Bonaire in February. A total of 2,956.8 grams of cannabis and 1,460 grams of cocaine intercepted with a total street value of nearly US \$90,000 were confiscated.

Three hundred grams of cocaine were intercepted in Curaçao on February 5. The drugs were brought in by a variety of people including a 20-year-old woman, a 39-year-old woman, a 53-year-old woman and a 30-year-old man.

►From May 31 to June 3, 2013, the ninth "Windsurf ProKids Event" will be held at Sorobon Beach. These competitions, at international level, are organized by Aquaspeed and Bonaire Windsurf Place. Our youngsters get a chance to demonstrate their talents at the ProKids event. There will also be competitions for professionals and older windsurfers.

In addition to the competitions there will be other beach activities for the public, such as "Bolas Criollas," volleyball, soccer, checkers and chess. The closure of the event will also be spectacular with a huge concert by famous Aruban artist Claudius Philips and his band Oreo, as well as Jairo Evertsz—the Bonairean who won the Road Jam during the carnival on Aruba this year.



►The police bicycle team of Bonaire is at full strength again and will be more visible in Kralendijk and surrounding areas. The intensive surveillance patrols will focus on safety and particularly traffic rules, along with small crime. The royal military police has a bike squad of its own, but the intention is to work together. **Maybe they should take part in the next item—a fun race.**

►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. Start at 8am. Fee: Adults \$10,- Kids \$5,-

The trail is for the most part flat on wide sandy paths. At the 3.5 km hill there is one per round, when there are 3 hills 6.7km per lap. Not a difficult course but a piece where you should be careful.

**Where is Yatu Baku?** Go to the main church in Kralendijk, follow Kaya Nikiboko North and drive to the end, where the asphalt stops. Continue on the dirt road, after about 800 meters you come to a watermill. Left is the start. You can register at De Free-wieler or at the start (but come on time). They are still looking for financial sponsors and volunteers to lend a hand during this fun race.

►The Caribbean has some great beach bars, and one of the very best is on Bonaire.



**Last week the Caribbean Journal named Harbour Village's La Balandra to its Top 10 list of the outstanding hotel bars in the Caribbean for 2013.** Besides the great drinks it serves it is only hotel bar on the list to have its own bow, check out the photo in their ad on page 6.

►The Bonaire Culinary / Bartender Team and Bonhata invite the public to the **Bonaire Bartenders Competition on April 4, 6-9pm at Divi Flamingo.** This fundraiser is necessary to cover costs of the team. For \$25 you receive canapés made by the chef team, tastings of the Cadushy liquor and spirits, and free glasses of wine. A cash bar will be available. All this plus the entertainment of watching our local bartenders make their signature drinks.

The winning bartender will then go with our Chef Team to compete in the Taste of the Caribbean in Miami in June. We are excited to have a team again after six years of not participating. The following bartenders are competing: **Shaidryon Valerio and Edith Goeloe-Divi Flamingo; Bas Cooke -It Rains Fishes; Natasha Rekondie -Cadushy Company Bonaire; Jheison Jaquez -Rum Runners; Tarmar Thom- Donna & Gorgio's; Yuly Wanga -Spice Beach.**

►Big Shoe Sale Alert – **Dushi Shoes now has a sale going on – 30% off all Birkenstock and Nike.** All must go to make room for new stock coming in. Dushi Shoes is headquarters for Reef, Cobian, Rider, DC sneakers, Crocs. They also carry Dakine and Ipanema bags as well as the new "foot jewelry." Stop in and

### This Week's Stories

In Memory of Miguel Pourier	3
April 7 <sup>th</sup> Kontest di Fli	3
Letters: Taxation Without Representation	5
Trees of Kantu di Awa	6
Birthdays: Lidia Frans, Gina Sanchez	7
Tourism History—Captain Don	8
Useful Gadgets (Key Holder)	9
Coral Puzzle 12, the 3rd Dimension	10
Church Organ Installed	10
Bonaire Chef Team	10
Easter Week Camping (Photos)	11
Government Glasses	12
Mystery Gourmet-Pasa Bon Pizza	15
A Neighbor of Bonaire-Guest Editorial	17
Sailing School Graduates	18
Toastmaster's Competition	18
<b>Departments</b>	
Flotsam & Jetsam	2
On the Island Since (Nancy Schoop-Hart)	4
Bonaire On Wheels (Felida Caravan)	5
Goat Cheese Recipe-Semper Kontentu Cheesecake	9
Picture Yourself- Tyrolean Alps, Austria.	12
Bonairean Humor	12
Sudoku, Sudoku Answer	13
Classifieds	13
Tide Table, Sunrise & Sunset	13
Times, Moon Phase	13
Shopping & Dining Guides	14
What's Happening, Masthead.	16
Cruise Ships	16
Did You Know? -Octopus Eats	17
Pet of the Week (Dingo)	18
Shelter News	18
Bonaire Sky Park (Saturn Shines and Meteors Fly)	19
The Stars Have It (Astrology)	19

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see for yourself. The sales staff is very well informed. Dushi Shoes is behind Banco di Caribe. Tel. 717-8300.

►Don't miss the **monthly Farmers' Market this Saturday, April 6, at Kriabon.** Every month this market grows bigger and better. You'll find fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs, plants, homemade jams, sweets, drinks, sometimes animals and poultry. And it's all in a friendly and fun atmosphere. It's at Kriabon on Kaminda Yatu Baku, next to the Aquamarin School. 8 am to noon.

►Remember to remind the stores and restaurants you visit to advertise in *The Reporter*. Their support keeps *The Reporter* free.

■G./L. D.

## In Memory of Miguel Pourier

We note with sadness and regret the death of former Prime Minister Miguel Pourier of the Netherlands Antilles. He was of great importance for his country in a difficult period.

The three-time former Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles, Miguel Pourier, passed away on Sunday, April 24, in Curaçao at the age of 74. Pourier was born in Rincon, on September 29, 1938.

He had been battling prostate cancer for some time.

Originally from Bonaire, he founded the political party "Partido Antia Restruktura" (PAR) that came out of a social movement backing the winning option to maintain the Netherlands Antilles as a five-island entity in the Antilles' first constitutional referendum of 1993.

He was active in the movement that advocated preservation and restructuring of the Netherlands Antilles. He was dead set against the corruption and mismanagement of the existing policy during his time.

He authored the "Pourier Report" which advocated controlled sustainable tourism for Bonaire with a focus on preserving the environment, a model very valid today.

Pourier, who had been interim Prime Minister for a short period once before in 1979, led PAR to victory in the 1994 elections. He served as Prime Minister from 1994 to 1998 and again from 1999 to 2002. A second round of referenda was held, starting in St. Maarten in 2000, in which majorities in Curaçao and St. Maarten opted after all to become autonomous countries within the Dutch Kingdom, prompting the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles



effective 10-10-10, with the three "small islands" Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba becoming special overseas public entities of The Netherlands.

Pourier worked tirelessly on the enormous financial problems facing the government during his terms in office. With support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he took severe austerity measures that were so strongly opposed that at one point he had to take a boat to work to circumvent a blockade. But the IMF backed out of its commitments setting up a chain of events which culminated in the dissolution of the Antilles.

He will be remembered as a man of integrity, a sober and courageous leader who was not afraid to take unpopular decisions.

Bonaire's Democratic Party (PDB) has made a proposal to honor the former Prime Minister by renaming Rincon's Kaya Rincon to Kaya Miguel Arcangel Pourier.

It is proposed to have the street officially renamed on Dia di Rincon (Day of Rincon) in 2014. He was also the godfather of Day of Rincon and faithfully visited the annual celebration.

We extend heartfelt condolences to his family. ■ G.D.

## Keep April 7<sup>th</sup> Free for the "Kontest di Fli"

This year it's a very special edition of the kite flying contest on Bonaire because it's held for the 35th time. The games will take place on Sunday, April 7th, from 8am until 6 pm at the Juventus soccer field, the field behind Kooyman. It will start at 8 am with a visit to the grave of the late Ivan Abdul in order to lay a wreath in his honor as he used to be the contest's MC for many, many years.



Back at the field the organization is expecting about 180-190 participants this year - not only people from Bonaire, but also from Curacao. Don Andres will be shipping the kites from Curacao to Bonaire for free, as they've done every year. Also, all participants will get a free T-shirt, sponsored by Napa NV and Young and Talented from Tati Frans. At this very special edition of the kite contest Kooyman will be placed in the spotlight because they've been a sponsor for so long.

Until Saturday, April 6th, at 5 pm people can sign up at Flamingo Bookstore in Kaya Grandi. Participants, age 5-15 years pay \$3; ages 16 to 100 pay \$5.

Also, **two workshops** are organized for kids and other people who want to make their own kite: one on **April 5th, at the Sentro di Bario Nikiboko**, where the first group in the ages from 8-16 can come from 4-6pm in the afternoon. The second group ages 16 till 100 is expected from 6-8pm in the early evening.

The second workshop will be on **April 6th, at the Sentro di Bario Noord Salina**, from 10am to noon for all ages At 3 in the afternoon a demonstration will be given and people will also have the opportunity to fly a kite. The workshops cost \$5 for the ages up to 16 and \$8 for 17-100 years of age. All materials are included in the price.

This year will be the last year that **Iris Semeler** has coordinated the event, but her Flamingo Bookstore will continue organizing the 'Kontest di Fli'.

According to Iris, "Everybody is looking forward to the 7th. It will be a big and beautiful day with food and drinks and music of HB disco and of course thrills and spills and lots of fun!" ■ Greta Kooistra

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# On the Island Since... 1982 and 2009 – Nancy Schoop-Hart

“I was born on Curacao, January 30, 1967. I don’t remember much about the years I spent there because when I was six we moved to Saint Martin. I had a great childhood with my dad, my mom, my sister and two brothers. Saint Martin was full of life and lots of fun. My mom was the manager of a perfume store at a resort at Mullet Bay and from the time when I was very young I used to go to work with her. It was funny. The tourists thought it was super cute having such a little girl helping them and who knew so much about the perfumes. My father had his own business, AC installation and maintenance. We were always busy with people; my parents were socially very active and they loved to entertain. We held bingos at home and we played cards and games and there was music all the time.

In 1982 I got married and moved to Bonaire where my husband was from. It was an immense change, because then Bonaire was very, very quiet. I felt lonely and I missed my mom and dad and my siblings – it was difficult. I did have some friends but it was a new place and a different life. The first two years I only went to school in the evening and then I started working at Cultimara, a supermarket in the center of Playa. It was one of my husband’s family businesses. At Cultimara I established the perfume boutique through Penha in Curacao. Then it wasn’t lonely anymore. My husband and I also travelled extensively, mostly to food shows in the States until he decided to dedicate himself more to politics. He’d always been involved but then he became very active.

After being married for about three years I gave birth to my daughter, Chemaïne – she’s 27 now, married to a real nice man and living on Saint Martin. Eighteen months later Stephanie was born, who is now 25 and studying in Amsterdam. One more year to go and then she’s a real estate agent – and... hopefully she will come back to the islands. Two years after Stephanie, my son, Ramonsito Jr., was born. He is 23 and studying in America.” *She smiles thoughtfully:* “And those kids – they are my life... they are everything to me and I think I am a better person because of them.

I stayed in my marriage for almost 14 years and after my divorce in 1997 I returned to Saint Martin. I didn’t want any money from my ex and financially it was too hard to make it on Bonaire; I felt I had more possibilities on Saint Martin. I took my two girls with me and my boy stayed with his father. I started working in tourism but then I also worked in time share and real estate and finally with an engineering company. There, at that company, I befriended someone who had a lot of troubles with his knees. Then I saw an ad in the paper from a well-known spa owner on the island who was giving massage courses. Subsequently I told ‘the man with the knees’ that if he would pay for the course (it was very expensive) I would massage his knees, ha! – And that’s how it began! After three months he was feeling so much better! By word of mouth people started coming to me and then I wasn’t interested in my engineering job anymore – not at all!

First I worked from my home but I also had a secluded apartment up in the hills which I had rented out and when the tenant left I converted it into the Namasté Relaxation Studio. We also did meditations, group-meditations and courses and my sister Helen would help me with pedicures and manicures. I had a girl who was doing facials – but all free-lance and only if I couldn’t do it. From my dad, who is Hindu, I’d heard about Ayurveda and Hinduism, but personally I found Buddhism more beautiful. I took courses like aroma therapy, reflexology and stress handling and many more. Also I became a Reiki Master. I still had my job with the engineering company and it became too busy – it wasn’t fun anymore. I guess I should have given up my job with the company, but I had my responsibilities and a mortgage and I didn’t have enough confidence to start out on my own.

Then I got a message from Bonaire that the long-lease land I had there would be taken away from me if I wasn’t going to build on it. I put the apartment on St. Martin up for sale because I’d made up my mind...I wanted to come back to Bonaire. When my ex heard I had the apartment for sale, he helped me build the foundation on my land. I wanted to build a small studio and that’s how I met my husband, Jeffrey. He is a firefighter but he also works in construction. We were constantly on-line and calling on the phone, but it was all professional because in all those 18 months I only came once to Bonaire while he was taking care of everything regarding the building of the studio and the house.

The reason I wanted to come back to Bonaire was that I had changed. Saint Martin was still busy as ever, but because of everything I’d learned during my studies I had found inner peace and knowledge and I was eager to put it into practice in a tranquil place– I had found my passion and it became my whole focus.

You see,” *she says and smiles,* “I’ve been very depressed for many years. It has been extremely difficult and also I’ve made many mistakes. However, now I see that going through that phase in my life

**“... I had found inner peace and knowledge and I was eager to put it into practice in a tranquil place...”**

has made it easy for me to understand and help others. I know now that depression doesn’t have to take so long and when I tell people my experience they can find their solution.

Well, I sold everything in Saint Martin and came to Bonaire in 2009 to start all over again. Jeffrey Schoop and I got married on Anguilla and then I came to live here, because he was here already. I started Namasté Bonaire in the studio in 2010. We were still building the house on the same terrain so it wasn’t easy! I began with friends and then it got busy and then,” *she laughs* “I stopped because it wasn’t appropriate because of the ongoing construction, the dust and the noise. For six months I worked for Tempo and when



Nancy Schoop-Hart



Nancy and her husband Jeffrey Schoop

the house was ready I officially opened. I am still creating Namasté and the ideal vision that I have is that you come to Namasté to search, to feel, to have a place where you can be alone with yourself. Many clients say ‘this is a gift to me’ and

For each client I prepare in-depth and in spite of the fact that I have many clients and that it’s very busy – I still can do it the right way. But it’s not only me. You see, when you tell me during the intake what it is you want and expect, you are not only telling me, but you are also telling yourself and that’s where it all starts...

When I was still in Saint Martin I envisioned this house; I saw it and I smelled the scent of the lime trees. I didn’t have the money, but the house is here and so is the lime tree. But... I must say that my husband helped me a lot, ha! ha!

Yes, I am back and it’s amazing and I feel very blessed. When I was young I was told that when you serve you get your blessings. I didn’t understand it then, but now I know it’s a feeling that everyone should have in their life. It all starts with sharing and when you are truly happy for people when good things happen to them – good things will happen to you too.” ■

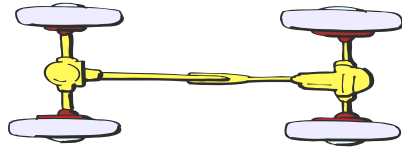
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# BONAIRE ON WHEELS

This is the 125<sup>th</sup> of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n -wear a helmet- Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles and persons that are "on wheels." Up to at least 200 articles!



## JAN AND OLGA FELIDA AND THEIR HOME MADE CARAVAN

Bonaire/Tras di Montaña -

One day, about a year ago, I drove my truck on the road between the roundabout and the stadium of Kralendijk. I followed a little white pickup, registered: 1215-V. I recognized the vehicle and I passed it. Then I jumped out of my car and tried to stop the very slow driving car. The driver was a little bit surprised. Luckily his wife Olga, sitting next to him, recognized me. I was that gentleman from *The Bonaire Reporter*, writing about special things on wheels. Some years ago I went to their *kunuku* (farm) in Tras di Montaña, situated along the road to Rincon, to interview their son Johnnie Felida. The guy with the drab green painted Indian Jeep Mahindra. Now her husband also remembered me. This made it easy for me to ask them whether they were in for an article about their car. And they were!

Tens of times the road to and from Rincon rolled under the wheels of my truck or my motorcycle and tens of times I passed the yellow house on the leeward side of the road: Tras di Montaña 17. And always there was this bunch of old trucks, jeeps, trailers. One day I met the owner of the little white pickup again. Now under the shade of a tree next to Kooyman Hardware. I introduced myself: "J@n Brouwer." And he introduced himself: "Jan Felida. Tokai!" Since that day, way back in history, we nickname each other "Tokai," the word in Papiamentu for namesake! I wrote an article about the 47-year-old Toyota pickup and we became friends

A couple of weeks ago I drove my truck again over the tarmac, leading from Rincon to Mentor. An old Jeep and an old pickup were parked on the *kunuku* of Tokai and my parents and I made a stop at Tras di Montana 17, in front of the house Tokai



The trailer is ready to go

built himself some 36 years ago. And no, the Jeep and the truck were not for sale. They belonged to his son who had the intention to restore them. But: surprise, surprise! As always Tokai was active again. Now he was working on a homemade, self-made, home designed caravan. A home on wheels. Another Bonairean project! And since we know each other and since I always honk when I pass the house it was not a single problem to interview Tokai and shoot some photographs.

Tokai, age 78 now, was very busy with the construction of a homemade caravan, based on a ridged rear axle equipped with a



Stability counts



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

### TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

Dear Editor:

Students of US history have heard the phrase, "Taxation without Representation is Tyranny." It is associated with The Boston Tea Party, when American Patriots in the guise of Indians, boarded merchant ships in the harbor and tossed the cargo into the water in protest. (Much of it was tea that held a high import tariff hence the label Boston Tea Party). The fact the colonists had little or no say in how they were governed was also an issue, not unlike the situation on

Bonaire the residents face on both levels of government.

A few months ago, the legal residents who held a Dutch passport were given the chance to cast ballots for an election that was held in the Netherlands. For any number of reasons, it turned out to not be a complete success. Granted, RCN took the initiative afterward to find out why and hoped to have a better plan in place for the future, it shows the apathy when it comes to the feelings of Dutch Nationalism here.

On the other side of the coin, politics and allegiances run deep on Bonaire. It won't be too long before the local elections will take place to choose island representatives. This is where the playing field starts to be leveled and all of our voices can be heard. Anyone who has been legally living here for at least five years can vote in local contest! See the English translation of the Dutch law below:

*Island Residents, Residents of Dutch nationality, the nationality of an EU Member State or Resident of another nationality for five years or longer and are legal resident in the Netherlands (Bonaire is the Netherlands!) have the right to vote as foreigners and it is regulated by law. (but set nav from a judgment of the Common Court of Justice).*

What this means is that a whole new cadre of voters with a well thought out agenda can hold great sway over elections. True, we cannot hold office (at least not yet) but organized as one voice, we as a lobby of "expats" can put our voting power behind the best candidates who we feel will represent the interests of all of us who live here.

What I suggest is an old fashioned town meeting of those who are eligible or soon will be to vote, to get together and see if we can reach a consensus of what our hopes and plans for our adopted island home Bonaire should be embracing. We need to be proactive and to wake up the fat cats and stop then from selling the island out from under the feet of the people who have been here for generations. Case in point is the Sunset Beach property. Please, let's see how many people will e mail or call me and lend your support to this grass roots effort. [info@chatnbrowse.com](mailto:info@chatnbrowse.com) 717-2281. ■

Michael Gaynor

still working differential and not connected hydraulic drum brakes. Twelve-inch wheels were mounted and a metal pipe was used as an adze to pull the caravan. Apart from a lot of nails and screws and a few hinges these were the only metal parts as Tokai built his caravan completely out of wooden beams and plywood! So Tokai started with an axle plus rims. Then he bought two new tubeless steel belted radial tires. Size: 145/70R12. Then he constructed a solid and sturdy chassis out of wooden beams. No coil springs or leaf springs were used. Then he hammered a wooden platform on top of the chassis and with nails and screws and some wire (and hopefully with some bolts and nuts/jb) he mounted an adze to connect the trailer to his little four-wheel drive Suzuki Samurai Jeep. On the foundations four walls were raised, made of plywood. In the rear Tokai installed a wooden door with vertical blinds. In the front a window for ventilation is still under

construction. The roof is made of... wood. Tokai made two studs or jacks to support the caravan and he even constructed a wooden step stool to make it easier for his wife Olga and himself to get in and out the vehicle. The whole caravan is painted in a kind of poison colored Kawasaki green. Most holes, created by wood eating white ants are thoughtfully filled with green paint. White ants do not eat green paint. The inside of the caravan is painted in fancy white. The mobile home is furnished with a fresh mattress and a pair of pillows since this caravan fits two: Jan Felida and Olga Felida, age 70! The couple is married for more than 50 years and they still enjoy camping in a small caravan on a small mattress! ■

Story & photo by J@n Brouwer





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# Trees of the Kantu di Awa



Kralendijk waterfront

Early in the morning, when hardly anyone is on the street, I have begun walking the *kantu di awa*, waterfront in our local language of Papiamentu. First light exposes bobbing boats in the bay, laughing gulls shore side and the small but staid Fort Oranje, the Dutch mini-fortress that for centuries has stood guard over Kralendijk's harbor. It is about a two-mile stroll, a good start to the day, and a way for me to appreciate the morning's first coffee even more upon return home.

But what has been revealing during my morning treks are the trees along the *kantu di awa*. They have special significance for people on this sun-drenched island, offering shady respite from the strong rays above. And this reverence of

people for plants is expressed in different ways along the waterfront.

Take, for instance, the Wish Tree. This diminutive plant has become a place of intimate personal expression for those wanting more in their lives. People leave notes on strings under the Wish Tree, sentiments in five languages. Some are local. Others are desires expressed by those from Uruguay, Panama, Brazil, New York City. I stopped my walk one day to read the writings.

Health is an apparent topic. One note reads, I wish that Map's knee pain is gone. Another boasts, ...that Kristal and I live happy, healthy and good lives. A Panamanian writes, Having a family blessed by God with good health. One boy expresses his passion for a girl and



Wish Tree



Float Tree



Villa Betty

hopes that she will equal his intense love. Another person, a Brazilian, does a laundry list in inspiring Portuguese, Greeting. Peace. Love. Light. Johon writes another list in Spanish, work, money, happiness, love in that order with the disclaimer if God wants it. A Venezuelan mysteriously writes, ...freed and recovered from the Red Spell. And then there are competing messages about where to live. I wished I lived in Bonaire with my family—Mai from New York, and, I wish that all our future plans come true. New life in USA. Thank you. But I think my favorite wish is another simple list, health, happiness, love & adventure. What more do you need?

Next to the Divi Resort you can find what I call the Float Tree. There are over a dozen buoys hanging from the boughs of this local tree. It has a bit of Christmas bulb panache with a nice ode to the sea. This is the best collection of flotsam that I have ever seen.

(Continued on page 7)

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Watapana tree

Kantu di Awa (Continued from page 6)

Then there is the divi divi tree down on Kaya Playa Lechi (which is actually Playa Pabou, just sayin') that proved to be too much of a challenge for the government. Island lore claims that the when the construction crew responsible for building the new seaside boulevard and pedestrian walkway saw the enormous trunk of the divi divi, they paused. If they removed it, it could be days of work under the hot sun. On the other hand, they could improvise on the Dutch urban architect's plan and build the walkway around the tree. People now decorate the divi divi with white sea shells. Nature 1, Humans 0.

There is another example not too far from Cha Cha Beach. The Four Seasons Restaurant is housed in one of the older traditional Antillean buildings on the island. It looks to me that a roof was added around the perimeter to provide shade for those who wished to dine al fresco. But concessions were made for a towering coco palm that is the corner centerpiece on the property. A hole was built into the roof so that the palm could tower above in tropical splendor. Nature 2, Humans 0.

But by far my favorite trees along the *kantu di awa* are the two in front of the Martis family's home named Villa Betty after the youngest daughter. It was Yellow Man, the son of the family's matriarch, Ines, who hung the first decoration. Since the family hosts almost weekly barbeques under the shade of the trees for relatives and friends, it wasn't long before the watapana tree became full of people's hanging contributions—a smashed cell phone, a goofy rubber turtle, empty cans of Sprite and pineapple juice, a Dutch motorcycle plate, Donald Duck hanging by strings. Then a turquoise and yellow sign was hung, Plenchi Machi Ines, Mama Ines's Terrace.

However, someone must have noticed that the calabash tree directly next to the watapana was being totally ignored. That was soon rectified with people hanging flip-flops in its sparse boughs. There is also a large clock that is permanently stuck on *sinku*, proving that it is always five o'clock somewhere. Someone even staked a wooden Christmas snowman at the base. Plenchi Machi Ines appears to be complete, but new additions are added all the time.



Four Seasons Coco Palm



Kalbas with wooden snowman

So these are the botanical gifts that I get to see during my morning power walks along the *kantu di awa*. Trees have a special meaning on our sparse island. They are friendly sentinels that grace our shores. It is gratifying to see that they are appreciated and honored. ■

Story & photos by Patrick Holian

Holian is a writer and film journalist living on Bonaire.



Lidia Frans celebrated her 80th birthday last Wednesday with a festive birthday party at her son's house in Kralendijk. Over 50 people joined in wishing her a most Happy Birthday. Lidia is the mother and grandmother of

numerous grandchildren, among whom are Bonaire's world-champion windsurfers.

**Happy, Happy Birthday!** ■

(Reporter photo taken at the party)



### Happy 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday To Gina Sanchez

Lovely Gina's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated in style last Saturday at a big party with her family and friends. Multilingual Gina has always been a good friend to *The Reporter*, helping with distribution and often acting as an interpreter. She is a charming, graceful and poised young lady. And she's an artist! Pabien, La Princesa! ■ (Reporter photo taken at the party)



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# Tourism History

Part 4 - Then Came The Don, Captain Don

In May 1962, a 70-foot schooner entered the Kralendijk bay and anchored just off the harbor. On board were a 37-year old Californian captain named Don Stewart and his shipmate, Percy Sweetnam, from Aruba. The 50-year-old boat was called *Valery Queen* and it was used for adventure trips and diving charters. Having been pretty beaten-up by a hurricane, the *Valery Queen* was on its way to Antigua for repairs. Stewart had tried to dock on Aruba and Curaçao, but he was not allowed to stay for a longer period on either island permit-wise. Bonaire welcomed him and, seduced by the beauty of the Kralendijk Bay and its reefs, Stewart decided to abandon his initial travel plans. He never resumed his travels as his boat sank, taking down with her all of Stewart's personal belongings.

The local Governor allowed Stewart to stay on the island under the condition that he made himself useful. So he started doing what he knew best: exploring the underwater beauty of the island. In 1963, he became the manager of the Flamingo Beach Club, the only seaside resort on the island, south of the capital, a site that had been a WW-II detention center 20 years earlier.

The first venture started up by Stewart was the Bonaire Marine Tropical Company for the export of tropical fish. He stored them in 32 tanks filled with seawater in an old government building. The experiment turned out to be not a success due to the limited possibilities of air transportation. In the meantime, however, the Flamingo



*Captain Don at his bar at the Flamingo Beach Club, with the figurehead 'De Gouden Verrader'*

Beach Club was greatly successful. Local people as well as tourists loved the relaxed atmosphere there and the bar was the most popular in town.

But Don Stewart was filled with plans: he had brought six air tanks and scuba diving gear on his boat. Diving was an activity totally unknown at the time, so when Don started his first dive operations on the island, it was quite primitive. His touch was golden though. Scuba diving grew to become the main tourist activity on the island and Don Stewart became the father of diving in Bonaire. One of the first activities he organized for divers was a large spear-fishing contest. However, filled with shame at the sight of the huge quantity of the speared fish, he turned to the conservation of the underwater world of the island.



*The waterfront near the Flamingo Beach Hotel*

He never touched a spear gun again.

In 1968 Don Stewart and Ibo Domacassé sailed a race against each other in their fishing boats. This was to become the Bonaire International Sailing Regatta, of which 45 editions have been organized so far.

In 1972 the Flamingo hotel was sold and Don Stewart moved on to the next tourism facility on the island, Hotel Bonaire, later renamed the Sunset Beach Hotel, north of the capital. In those years he also founded AquaVenture, one of the first Caribbean diving companies.

In 1976, he moved on to establish his own place. He took over the bungalows of the deteriorated Hotel Debonair, rebuilt the wooden structures stone by stone and thus founded his own resort, a concept he had dreamt of since his arrival on the island:

Captain Don's Habitat, a resort that is 100% dedicated to diving. "Total diving freedom" was a successful concept, soon copied in Bonaire itself, but also elsewhere in the world.

Don Stewart dedicated a great part of his life to protecting the underwater world: no spear fishing, no anchoring of boats on the reefs, no taking away souvenirs. He instituted the first permanent mooring system which eliminated the need for boats to drop their anchors (now considered a standard for any marine protected area). He co-founded organizations like the Caribbean Underwater Resort Operators (CURO) in an effort to unify procedures for regional divers. His environmental work was also inspirational to the founding

*(Continued on page 9)*

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Photo: Heit

A Some of the 32 tanks of the Don's Bonaire Marine Tropical Company . In the photo is Ria Heitkönig , the photographers daughter, who tended the fish.

**Tourism History** (Continued from page 8)

of the Bonaire Marine Park which has a long history of marine preservation which includes, among others, turtle protection since 1961, the prohibition of spear fishing since 1971 and protection of coral reefs since 1975. It was Captain Don who gave their names to most of the diving spots in the Marine Park.

Don Stewart's adventurous lifestyle took its toll. While helping to salvage a sunken raft on the east coast, he shattered an ankle and ended up losing part of his leg. It lies buried in Bonairean soil...

Don Stewart is the author of a series of books, most of them autobiographical, about... you guessed it right: diving and protecting the environment beneath and above the water.

Born in 1925, Don Stewart is now a retired

dive operator, a former hotel manager and a legendary environmentalist who spends his time these days running his 'green fingers' over flowers and plants. Talk of an about-face: he is now totally involved in the business of landscaping! ■ **Evert Bongers**

(source, among others): 'The Adventures of Captain Don'

**Still to come: The Sixties, Airport and Airlift and the National Parks**

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



# Useful Gadgets

This is the third column about useful gadgets for sale on Bonaire in a series of 100.

## A FOUR KEY KEYHOLDER

Bonaire/Playa –

His name is Leendert Frempong Manso. His age is 15 and he is a part time bicycle mechanic at De Freewieler, located in the blue building opposite INPO Electrics in the Kaya Grandi. As far as Leendert knows this is the only shop where they sell and repair road bikes, mountain bikes and so called Dutch bikes.

Leendert is a Bonairean and he likes to work on bikes. There is still a lot to learn. Most people can't even repair a tube and they do not know the difference between a tube and a tire. Leendert is learning every day. When I enter the shop/workshop, he is busy with a special tool, a pulley puller, to remove the axle which is mounted in the frame of a mountain bike. It takes some time to screw the special tool in the fine thread of the axle but Leendert will manage.

I ask him to show me the useful gadget of the week. So Leendert takes position in front of the shop where the quality of the afternoon daylight is OK. Leendert shows me the special key holder. The black box is not really a box. It holds four keys but you can't open it. Those four keys can slide in and out of the box. Never seen a gadget like this before. No information on the internet either. It just reads: "Zilka Patent Pending." The gadget is made of black plastic and has more or less the size of a matchbox. It fits easy in your pocket or your purse. Price might be a little obstacle: \$22.95.

Apart from selling and repairing bikes, De Freewieler is the place to have copies made of all types of house and car keys. ■ *Story & photo by J@n Brouwer*



Leendert Frempong Manso.

## MONTHLY Goatcheese recipe

Fresh and healthy



### Cheesecake "Semper Kontentu"

Dessert serves 4

#### Ingredients:

Goatcheese Semper Kontentu	200 gr
Heavy cream	250 ml
Eggwhite	75 gr
Powdered sugar	100 gr
Butter	100 gr
"Bastogne" cookies	15 x

#### How to prepare:

Use a cake mold with a 21cm diameter. Melt butter on a low flame in a small pan. Crush the cookies in a blenders until there are no more large lumps. Mix the cookies with the melted butter in a bowl. Cover the bottom of the mold with your cookie mixture Blend the goatcheese until its smooth. Whip the eggwhite ( in a fat-free bowl) with 50 grams of powdered sugar until it peaks. Whip the cream with the rest of the powdered sugar until it is thick like yoghurt. Mix the goatcheese with the whipped cream and fold in the eggwhite. Put this mixture on top of the crust. Let it cool in the refrigerator for two hours. Add some fresh strawberries or mango and serve it cold. Enjoy the taste, made with love, enjoy Aletta's Semper Kontentu goatcheese.

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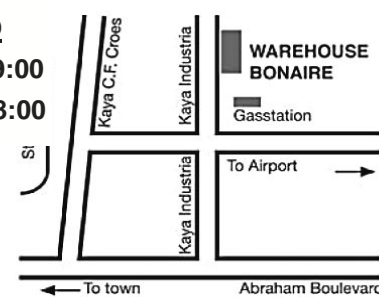
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# Bonaire Coral Puzzle 12

## The 3rd Dimension

### THE THIRD DIMENSION: VERTICAL

I found and discussed in the previous articles of this series several curious patterns of coral growth on the concrete boat mooring blocks in front of Kralendijk. The coral growth amounts differ between the inshore mooring blocks and the offshore moorings, between moorings located close to port and moorings located far from it, and between left halves of some mooring block faces and their right halves. In all these cases, the coral coverage changes in a horizontal dimension: along the shore, across the sand flat, from left to right. Let's now look at the vertical dimension. Is there a pattern of difference in the coral growth between upper halves of the mooring block faces and their lower halves?

All previously discussed horizontal patterns started with simple "more-less" relations: there is more coral on the inshore moorings than on the offshore ones, more on the offshore moorings located farther from the port than on the ones located closer to it, and more on right halves of the inshore block faces than on their left halves. These relations became somewhat more intricate as more details were considered. Let's start with a simple relation again. Are there more corals on the upper halves of the block faces than on their lower halves or is it the other way around? Does coral coverage differ in the vertical dimension beyond random variations? Are most mooring block faces "top-dominant" or "bottom-dominant"? Are they about equally divided?



Photo A. Top-dominant face of a boat mooring block

Photo A demonstrates a top-dominant face: significantly more corals cover the face's upper half than its lower half.

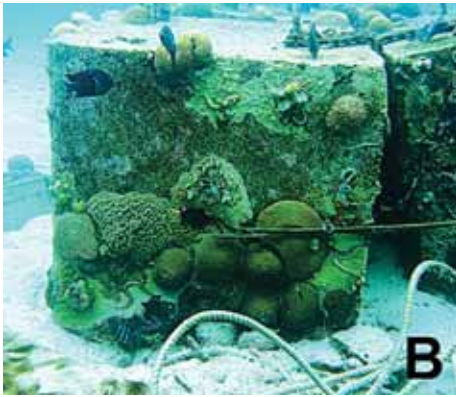


Photo B. Bottom-dominant face of a boat mooring block



Photo C. A boat mooring block face with no clear vertical dominance

Photo B demonstrates a bottom-dominant face, with an oppositely arranged coverage. Photo C shows a face without a clear vertical dominance of the coral coverage. Which photo represents an "average" face in this respect? Does a "normal" face look like the one in A, the one in B, or the one in C? Is there such a thing as a "normal" face or is there rather a mix of them all?

Before I discuss my findings, I would like to hear from YOU, reader of *The Bonaire Reporter*: what answer do you expect and why? Do you think that corals cover upper and lower parts of the mooring block faces differently? If so, which parts do they prefer in your opinion? Let me know your ideas and conclusions. ■ Genady Filkovsky

## Church Organ Installed

Thanks to a generous donation from the Eben Haezer Congregation in Ezinge, Groningen, Holland, the Catholic Church in Kralendijk, Bonaire, now has a renovated pipe organ. Monsignor Luis Secco, bishop of the Diocese of Willemstad, dedicated the organ during a mass at St Bernardus church. The pipes come from an organ built in 1890 that was completely renovated in 1954 by Sipke de Wit. After the mass, parishioners were given the chance to view the organ up close. The Classical Music Board had also organized an organ concert that same evening. ■ Press release



Organists Franklin Scherptong, Chana Diaz, Commissioner James Kroon and Interim Governor Peter Silberie

## Bonaire Chef Team-2013



Bonaire chefs are practicing and planning for the Taste of Caribbean competition in Miami every Sunday morning in the culinary school kitchen at the SGB High School. The young team, composed of all Bonairean chefs, and their coaches are working hard to win a gold medal for Bonaire. Mentors and team were visited last Sunday by the new TCB head Ethsel Pieterella and wife Amelia (at right). Soon the public will be invited to sample and critique the practice meals. ■ Press release

Write to Genady Filkovsky, e-mail: [la-goenhill20@yahoo.com](mailto:la-goenhill20@yahoo.com). All previous issues of the series can be accessed through

the web-site [www.filkovsky.net/bonaire-coral-puzzle.html](http://www.filkovsky.net/bonaire-coral-puzzle.html).



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## Bonairean Humor

From the Papiamentu language newspaper *èxtra*

An old man was having serious problems with his hearing. He was deaf as a conch for years already. One day he decided to visit a hearing specialist who prescribed a hearing aid that allowed the old man to have perfect hearing.

After a month or so, the old man went back to the doctor to get the hearing aid checked. After checking the hearing aid the doctor said: Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really happy that you can hear again. The old man answered: Oh, my family. Well, I haven't told my family yet that I can hear. I just sit in the middle of them all and listen to their conversations. I have already changed my will three times.

An older couple went to have dinner at another older couple's home. At one point the wives got up from the table and went to the kitchen to finish preparing the meal. The two men stayed behind talking.

One of them said: Yesterday we went to a new restaurant and it was really good. I would recommend that you go there. The other man wanted to know the name of the restaurant. The first man thought and thought and finally said: What do you call the flower that you give?...you know...the red flower with thorns on the stem? The second man answered: You mean a rose? The first man said: Yes, that's it! He got up and walked toward the kitchen and yelled: Rose, what's the name of the restaurant we went to last night?

It was winter and New York was very cold. A couple from New York decided to spend a long vacation weekend in Miami. Since they both worked, they decided the man would fly down alone on Thursday and his wife would follow the next day. When the husband arrived in Miami he checked into a hotel and sent an e-mail to his wife in New York. But the message accidentally went to a widow in Houston.

The widow had just returned home after attending her husband's funeral. He was a religious minister for many years before he had a heart attack and died. The widow went to her bedroom, opened her computer, and got on the internet hoping to receive condolence messages from family and friends. But after reading the first message, she was so frightened she fainted. Her son heard the noise in her bedroom and ran to see what had happened. He found his mother lying flat on the floor, unconscious. He looked at the computer screen and read:

TO: My beloved wife

FR: Your husband who bid you farewell today

SUBJECT: I arrived!

I have already arrived and checked in. I noticed that they have everything prepared for your arrival here tomorrow. I am waiting for you anxiously. I hope that you have a good trip, the same as mine. It is very hot here. ■

Translated by  
Jane Madden-Disko



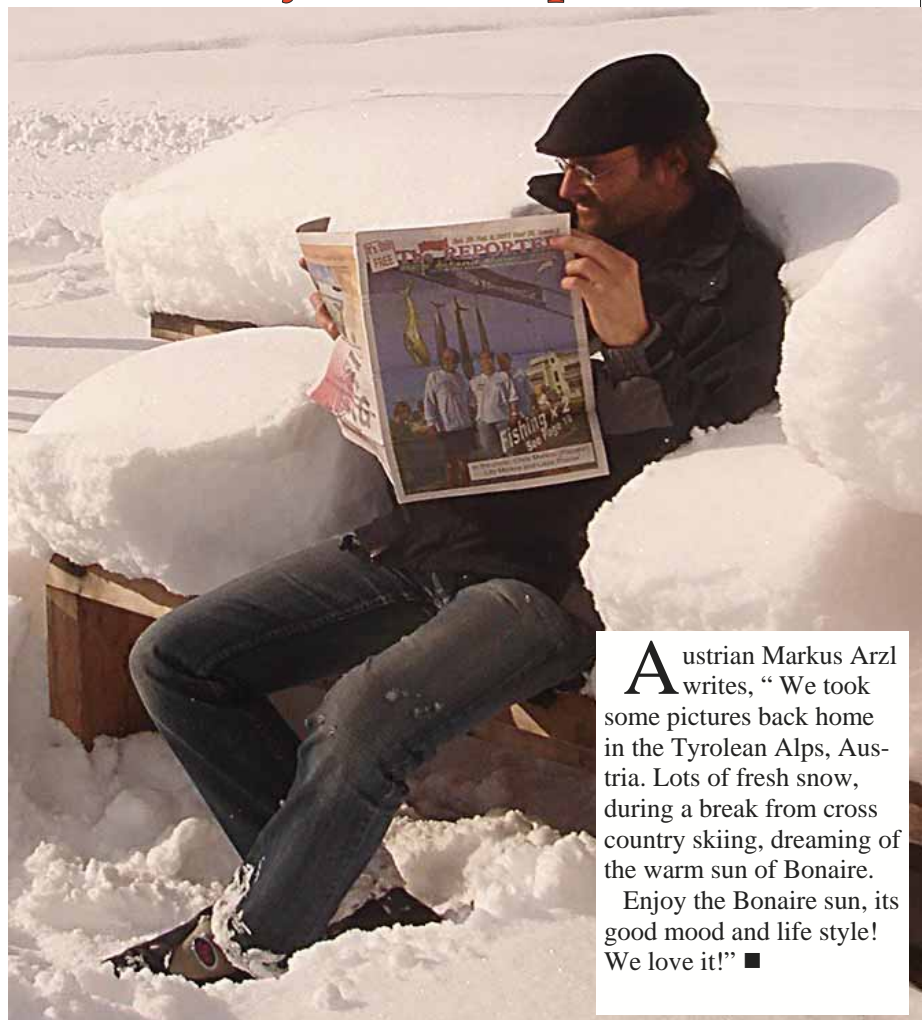
## Government Glasses

Kralendijk/Bonaire – So recently I went to Buena Vista Optics, Kaya Grandi 32B, down a bit in the *hanchi* (Papiamentu for: alley/jb) in between Best Pearls and Gio's Ice Cream Parlor in Playa. With my reading glasses I had problems working with my laptop. The vision was still a little bit weird and hazy. Nick Madlener, owner of Buena Vista Optics, immediately recognized the problem: focus distance. When you write or when you read a book, the focus distance is some 25 to 30 centimeters. The distance between your eyes and the screen of your personal computer is some 60 centimeters. So there is a significant difference! Then he re-measured my eyes with computerized high end instruments and we found the right lenses and a suitable frame to fit the glasses. When I had the intention to pay for the new spectacles Nick asked me for my *sedula/id*. It appeared that the Bonairean government is willing to subsidize up to \$170 every two years to help me read and write better. This contribution by the government counts for every citizen of Bonaire with a valid *sedula/id* as long as laws and rules are not changed. So, if you have problems with reading or writing because of your eyes, get in touch with Nick and Els Madlener about spectacles, prices, and conditions. The government is willing to help you! ■ Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



On March 28th Mrs. Luisa Cicilia-Statie visited Buena Vista Optics. She was assisted by her daughter. Els Madlener informed the two ladies since Mrs. Cicilia-Statie was looking for a new pair of sunglasses. It is more than evident you need a pair of sunglasses on a tropical island like Bonaire, even at the age of 95!

## Picture Yourself With The Reporter In the Tyrolean Alps, Austria.



Austrian Markus Arzl writes, "We took some pictures back home in the Tyrolean Alps, Austria. Lots of fresh snow, during a break from cross country skiing, dreaming of the warm sun of Bonaire.

Enjoy the Bonaire sun, its good mood and life style! We love it!" ■

We Would Love to Print Your PHOTO!

For Picture Yourself With The Bonaire Reporter

WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN A PRIZE. Mail photos to *Bonaire Reporter*, Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. E-mail to: info@bonairereporter.com

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**Private Sightseeing Flights.** Discover Bonaire from the air. Up to 3 passengers.

Also photo and special flights. 7 days a week. Information: 786-7720

**FOUND— Wedding Ring—**

was found by a woman, Debbie J. from Wyoming. Thank you very much for your concern. (notice in previous Reporter)



**2001 Toyota Pickup, 4 x 4, Double cabin.** With all the top luxury features, deluxe seats, Airco, variable speed wipers, keyless entry, alloy wheels, and more. 110,600 km. Gas (petrol) engine. Reduced to \$8,000 Call 717-7800 ask for Rafael or email [rafael.clementina@autocitybonaire.com](mailto:rafael.clementina@autocitybonaire.com)

**For sale: Ludix One scooter,** from 2006. In good condition, got its maintenances, new back tire (inside and outside), including new luggage rack and heavy chain and lock. New plates; taxes paid until Dec 2013. Price: \$1000. Call: 788 6126.

**2005 TOYOTA TACOMA 4D DOUBLE CAB + BED CAP** (removable) Only 6650 miles - excellent cond. automatic transmission, airco, C/D, more extras Royal Blue - \$24,950 Call 717-6813

**Dark Brown couch for sale.** Hardly used. \$700. Email: TeakIt@msn.com for pictures. Call: 787-2944 (English speaking only)

If you are going on vacation and you need a house sitter feel free to call tarimar for more information at: 599 700-5473

**Missing Tank, please help me find it.** One of my tanks, a 63 with BSDME painted on the side went out with tanks to somewhere from Bonaire Scuba Services. It should stand out as it has a some leftover shading of blue where I had once had painted it. Susan@bsdme.info

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

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
April		02:42	08:21	16:00	21:35		
Fri 05	0.00 ft	03:51	09:17	-0.24 ft	0.47 ft	6:29	18:47
Sat 06	0.01 ft	05:07	10:17	-0.17 ft	0.54 ft	6:29	18:47
Sun 07	0.01 ft	06:30	11:26	-0.09 ft	0.59 ft	6:28	18:47
Mon 08	-0.00 ft	00:04	07:54	0.37 ft	17:57	6:27	18:47
Tue 09	0.64 ft	00:54	09:13	0.27 ft	18:34	6:27	18:47
Wed 10	0.68 ft	01:43	10:19	0.21 ft	19:11	New Moon	6:26
Thu 11	0.70 ft	02:29	11:13	0.20 ft	19:52	6:26	18:47
Fri 12	0.72 ft	03:13	11:57	0.21 ft	20:36	6:25	18:47
Sat 13	0.73 ft	03:55	12:35	0.23 ft	21:25	6:24	18:47
Sun 14	0.73 ft	04:34	13:08	0.24 ft	22:15	6:24	18:47
Mon 15	0.73 ft	05:12	13:39	0.26 ft	23:03	6:23	18:47
Tue 16	0.72 ft	05:49	14:07	0.27 ft	23:51	6:23	18:47
Wed 17	0.70 ft	First	00:39	0.30 ft	19:54	6:22	18:47
Thu 18	Quarter	01:31	07:03	0.67 ft	14:34	6:22	18:48
Fri 19	0.16 ft	01:31	07:03	0.62 ft	14:34	6:21	18:48

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

**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)

**Vakantie?** onze comfortabele woning met 2 porches en 3 slaapkamers beschikbaar, v.a. 300 Dollar pw Excl web.

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

**Storage Garage for rent at Sand Dollar** 5.8 meters x 2.8 meters + loft area Available Now. \$150 per month; Call Bob 786-7362

**Studio Apartments for rent in Hato** This apartment has been completely renovated and repainted and located on a large lot, includes new refrigerator, stove, hot water and A/C's. Rent is \$575, including Furniture, Water and Internet. Electricity is excluded. Available on May 1. No smoking. No pets. If interested call Bob at 786-7362

**HP LaserJet P2035.** Perfect condition. Almost new. Now only \$175. Call 717-8819, 8 am to 5 pm

**Bonaire Grown Landscaping Plants**

Trees, shrubs, and more Fair Prices High Quality

**Captain Don's Nursery**

103 Kaminda Lagun (road to Lagun) (Look for the blue rock and dive flag)



**Sudoku Puzzle**

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

**Sudoku Solution**

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

# 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.**

**Want to see You See Your Business' Advertisement Here?** Contact *The Reporter* at 786-6518 or email [laura@bonairereporter.com](mailto:laura@bonairereporter.com). Your "bottom line" will look better as a result of advertising with us.

## DENTURE REPAIR

**All Denture Lab**—for the best denture care by an experienced professional. Repairs while you wait. Next to Botika Korona on Kaya J. G. Hernandez.

## WANT A LISTING IN THIS DIRECTORY?

It's **still free** for regular advertisers in *The Reporter*. Call Laura at 786-6518 for more details.

## 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.

## VARIETY STORE

**The Tung Fong Store** is a great asset to everyone on Bonaire because it stocks so many thing we want: clothes, hardware, food, auto and bike supplies. If you don't see it... ask for it. They probably have it.

## 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)

# The Mystery Gourmet



## PASA BON PIZZA

The Mystery Gourmet and sneaky Spouse have been, for many years, pizza lovers.

Historically, as most of us know, pizza is another delicious dish, Italian in origin, first experienced by American troops who participated in the World War II invasion and brought back to North America, finding great popularity and demand there since the 1950s.

The spooky pair have been dining on the island for many years, Pasa Bon Pizza having been in operation at the same site during all that time, a tribute to its quality of product and service.

Pasa Bon Pizza advertises as "American Style" and, although there are several different types of pizza popular in the States, the Chicago and Saint Louis styles being examples of deviations one from the other, the thickness of the crusts being the basis for argument as to which is better. Indeed, Pasa Bon's is much more like the St. Louis product, the one the Gourmet prefers. Three crust sizes with cheese are the basis for a dozen or more toppings, virtually every imaginable combination being offered (Pepperoni, spicy sausage, mushrooms, ham, ground beef, anchovy, tuna, artichokes, hot pep-

pers, green peppers, garlic, pineapple, black olives, tomato, onion, capers, Bleu cheese).

Other offerings include Calzones, Lasagna, garlic bread and salads.

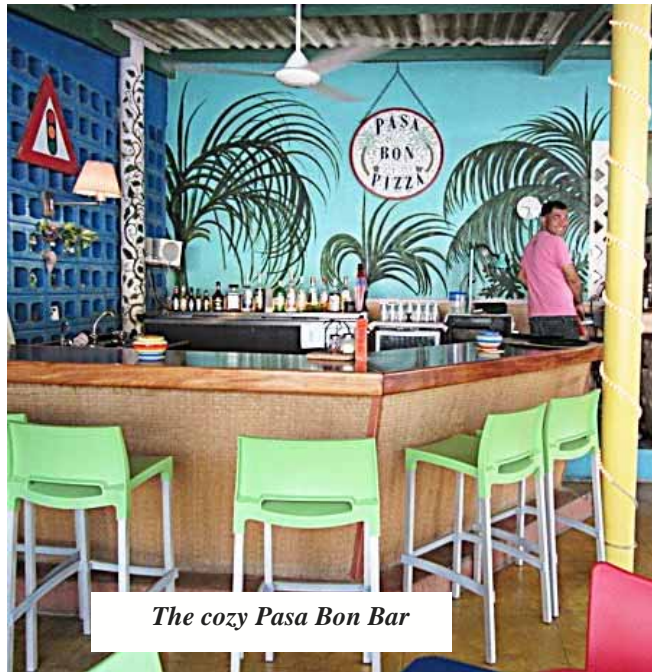
The restaurant is conveniently located, has a full bar and pleasant dining area. Days and hours of operation are Wednesday through Sunday 5pm-11pm. The Gourmet and spouse have utilized both the indoor dining and the take away alternative. A call ahead for an order (780-1111) usually results in food to be available within half an hour.

On this occasion the hungry two-some opted the large crust with enough toppings (five) so as to be labeled a "Supreme." They added an order of Pasa Bon Salad for take away.

As was expected the fare was extraordinary, encouraging the Gourmet and Spouse to utilize Pasa Bon Pizza whenever they hunger for excellent take away comfort food to compliment a quiet evening at home.

Tastefully submitted, by The Mystery Gourmet. ■

Story & photo by The Mystery Gourmet and Spouse



The cozy Pasa Bon Bar

**Bona Dea**  
Caribbean Life Style

Gifts, Apparel, Shoes,  
Home Decor,  
Accessories

Open Monday-Saturday  
9 am-1 pm & 2 pm-6:30 pm

Kaya Isla Riba z/n  
Kralendijk, Bonaire, CN  
Phone 599-787-0899

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+599-7172929

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

Day	Date	Ship Name	Time in Port	# of pass.	Cruise Line
Wednesday	3-Apr-13	Grandeur of the Seas	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Wednesday	10-Apr-13	Grandeur of the Seas	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Monday	15-Apr-13	Statendam	1200-2300	1258	HAL
Wednesday	17-Apr-13	Grandeur of the Seas	0800-1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Saturday	20-Apr-13	Emerald Princess	0700-1400	3100	Princess Cruises

### 2012-2013 Cruise Ship Season Ends

#### CLOSE-IN EVENTS

**Thursday, April 4 – Bartenders Competition** – More on page 2

**Friday, Saturday, April 5–6 -Kite Workshops.** More on page 3

**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!

**Book Fair at the Animal Shelter, 10am-1pm.** More page 18

**Sunday, April 7 -Kontest di Fli, Kite Flying Contest** at the sports field behind Kooyman's starting at 9 am. More on page 3

**Fun Bike Race** by Xtreme Sports Bonaire, at Yatu Baku, call DeFree-wieler, 717-8545 or 786-8545. More on page 2

**Toastmasters Competition, 5-7pm,** on *Freewinds*. More page 18

**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.

**Saturday, April 27—Flea Market at Bonaire Sailing School (BSSA)**

**Tuesday, April 30 -Inauguration of King Willem-Alexander**

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

#### 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

**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; Marytjin@gmail.com or 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,

## Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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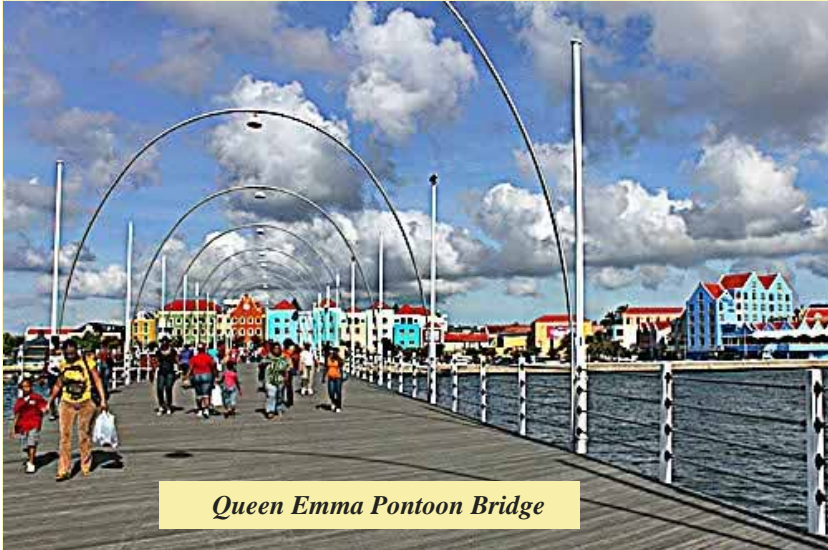
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# Guest Editorial

## A Neighbor of Bonaire



Queen Emma Pontoon Bridge

A real islander only leaves his island under certain circumstances such as a consultation with a medical specialist or the funeral of a friend or relative. I am not a real islander. Sometimes I have to leave for a while to get rid of this feeling of being locked up and to determine, upon my return, that I belong here and that I enjoy the noise and pleasures of elsewhere for only a day or so.

"To be away from here for a short while," said a Dutchman, "feels as if going to the big city, like going from Texel to Amsterdam."

This time we decided to go to another country where a lot of Antilleans live, where they speak Papiamentu and where one pays with one's own national local currency. Upon arrival the passports are thoroughly checked, and at the request of the immigration official we also show our Bonaire IDs and boarding passes. Altogether quite an operation. That's what you get when you go to another country.

The hotel is located where large ships come and go, and where many people cross the pontoon bridge, looking for work or shops. In the paper I read that the prime ministers and his ministers are in deliberation with the highest officials of the mother country. And the queen also meets with them to get to know them. Unlike before, there is optimism in the country. The new government has made a clean sweep and is determined to walk the long road to a self-supportive land with confidence and pride.

This time no populist screaming but constructive language that is welcomed by the people of the mother country. Strolling through the streets I realize that many brothers and sisters from Bonaire live here and how many families are cross linked between our two islands.

And the cultural treasures locked up in this island! Great Antillean writers like Tip Marugg, Boeli van Leeuwen and Frank Martinus Arion lived and worked here and wrote wonderful books in the mother tongue. Composers and musicians like Palm and Statius Muller stood at the cradle of the evolution of classical Antillean music.

Thereafter, Europeans and South Americans together with Antilleans laid the basis for the international appeal of this island. The old restored buildings are the testimony and nourish the imagination of history.

In the evening we listen to the same songs that we hear on our island, kriojo-jazz and tumba like folk songs with much sentiment and feeling.

Next morning I drink a cup of coffee with a long retired customs officer at Brionplein, his companion, as he calls his walker, parked to the side.

I tell him where I live. Already 15 years on Bonaire, an island that is now called a "Public Body," where a Lt. Governor and deputies believe they hold sway, but where the Netherlands is increasingly in control. And also that yesterday our elected representatives travelled to the Netherlands where, cap in hand, talks will take place with officials of the various ministries to discuss the priorities in the level of public services to the island. Maybe, they'll also talk about the meaningless details of our donkeys. I also tell him that Bonaire is becoming more and more Dutch, which does not please me. And that Antillean residents of our island, as a reaction, hang on with increasing rigidity to the old values, norms and culture.

Understandable right?

He listens to my story and says: "In case you don't feel at home there you can always come live here. We get along well with the Dutch, no problem. And they don't have to be able to speak Papiamentu."

We say good bye, as our plane leaves in a few hours.

On the way back I realize that this time I am not going home with a happy, refueled feeling. A feeling of loss, sadness overpowers me and I recognize the tragedy that, in many respects, hangs over Bonaire.

It has everything to do with October 10, 2010. What did we do and why and what for?

We have separated ourselves from our compatriots with the same language and culture that live no more than 50 km. from us. We have given the impression that we are a people

# DID YOU KNOW?

That what an Octopus eats depends on their personality?

Every individual octopus has a different personality. For example they could be daring, curious, wary or reclusive. Octopuses develop these personalities like people do, through their experiences. If an octopus has a bad or harmful experience they remember and avoid any situation like it. A bad experience could include being preyed upon by a shark, eel, dolphin, or a human and barely escaping. Likewise if an octopus has a good encounter, they will continue to explore new and distant places. Octopuses are somewhat picky eaters and normally only eat crabs, scallops, and gastropods. Each octopus has its favorite type of food but what they actually eat



photographer Tossa Dowell

depends on how far they are willing to search to find it. If an octopus is reluctant to leave its den due to a bad experience it will have the limited food choices of the surrounding area. So, the next time you see an octopus keep clear and avoid causing a bad experience because you just might be limiting what that octopus eats in the future. ■ Megan Hoag

Megan is a Biology major from Marietta College in Ohio. She studied with CIEE Bonaire research station during the fall 2012 semester.



who wants to hide and relax under the umbrella of the Netherlands, to be incorporated as a Public Body. I no longer want to hear that dirty word. And what happened to our pride to hold up our own pants, just like our neighbors are trying to do?

But I hear you say: "That's what we voted for democratically."

Yes and No. The Bonaire people did not think of this. The ideas for the unbinding of the Antilles come from dear bookkeepers, politicians and constitutional experts from the Netherlands. They chose a simplification of the problems and divided up the group of islands so that they could most effectively be controlled. And the architects of this division found some politicians on our island that sold the idea with promises that could hardly be denied. And we, electoral cattle of the then ruling power, said YES, leaving an important minority of naysayers behind us.

Now we can only dream of what the naysayers were contemplating as the ideal but not attainable solution: Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire under one national roof, with culture, kinship and history as unifying elements. Maybe we will get there one day, when all islands have become prosperous. I hope so, but it will take time.

Until then I cherish my neighbors and look for some comfort and consolation. Sometimes one is better off with a good neighbor than a far away friend.

From Rudy Plaate I steal a musical greeting: "Atardi Korsou Bunita." That song is also sung here by Tutti Frutti from Rincon, but with slightly different words: "Atardi Boneiru Bunita." What an example of solidarity. ■

Guus Gerritsen



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## Pet of the Week

“Dingo” is a “special needs” dog. Knowing she was going to pass away and considering Dingo such a valued companion to her, his owner tried to get him placed into a good home. But even though the people she gave him to were kind they weren’t home very often. Dingo was very bonded to his owner, so being left alone he just grieved, wouldn’t eat and kept trying to return to his mistress’ home. He was just too lonely and sad. The couple brought him to the Animal Shelter in hopes that he could have a better opportunity in his life. Being around the other dogs has helped but he still needs to find a good home with someone who has more time to spend with him and to appreciate his fine character. He just loves company. And if there is another dog at that home, all the better. Dingo is about seven years old, is healthy, has had his shots and is sterilized. Good luck to you, Dingo!



Dingo

To meet Dingo and the other cats and dogs up for adoption you are welcome to visit the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. [www.animalshelterbonaire.com](http://www.animalshelterbonaire.com). See them on Facebook too.

## SHELTER NEWS



**B**ig Shelter Book Fair this Saturday, April 6, from 10 am to 1 pm, at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road. There are hundreds of books – in various languages – children’s books and more. Books sell for \$1.25 each and all proceeds go towards keeping the Shelter open for unwanted dogs and cats. As well there will be snacks and drinks for hungry/thirsty readers.

If you have books to donate you may bring them to the Shelter during their opening hours. Everything is very much appreciated!

**A**ll vehicles on Bonaire have new license plates now, so please don’t throw away your old ones. Bring them to the Bonaire Animal Shelter. The Shelter sells those old plates at the Cruise Market and the money raised will be used for the free spay and neuter program for the dogs and cats on the island. You may also bring them to the Carib Inn which sells them for the Shelter as well.

## Bonaire Sailing School Graduates



**L**ast Sunday a lot of kids from Bonaire Sailing School Association (received their diplomas. Congratulations to all sailors and their instructors.

L to R: (bottom row): Yorick, Max, Dani, Kaydian, Marcel, Senna, Enzo, Iris and B’lana; Second row: Ton (instructor). Justin, Brandon,

Rafael, Mark (instructor); (top): Noah and Ruben (instructor)

**The Sailing School will hold a fund raising Flea Market Plus on Saturday, April 27. Save the date. If you wish to donate things-after all it’s time for Spring Cleaning- they can arrange pickup after April 20. Call Agnes at 717-8310. ■ Agnes van Dijk**

## Toastmaster's Competition



**T**oastmaster speakers competition will be held on Sunday 7th April at 5pm sharp till 7pm on board the *Freewinds* Tickets cost \$5 and can be ordered from [Carla.hayc@gmail.com](mailto:Carla.hayc@gmail.com). Competing are: (left to right) Sapphira Coffie, Dedrie Pedersen, Maritsa Silberie, Jefferson Rosalia, Paulina Rodriguez and Carla Hay.

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## SATURN SHINES AND METEORS FLY

Of the solar system's eight major planets, only two show up nicely during April. But what a pair they are. **Jupiter** blazes in the western sky after darkness falls, a beacon on these balmy spring evenings. And glorious **Saturn**

hangs low in the east at nightfall before climbing high in the south around midnight. It reaches **Opposition** and peak visibility in late April.

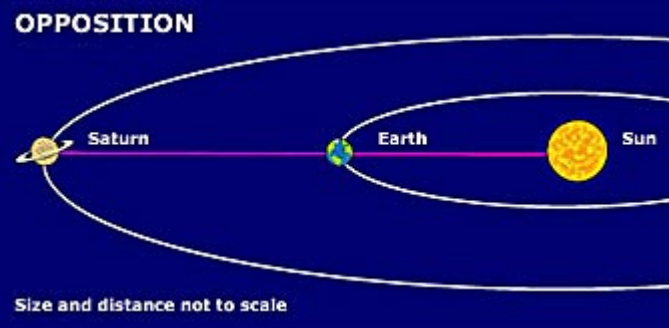
After mid-April look forward to the **Lyrids Meteor Shower**. The Lyrids are an average shower, usually producing about 20 meteors per hour at their peak. These meteors can produce bright dust trails that last for several seconds. The shower usually peaks on April 21 and 22, although some meteors can be visible from April 16 - 25. The **gibbous moon** could be a problem this year, hiding many of the fainter meteors in its glare. It will set before sunrise, providing a short window of dark skies. Look for meteors radiating from the **constellation of Lyra** after midnight.

On April 28 Saturn is at Opposition. The ringed planet will be at its closest approach to **Earth** and its face will be fully illuminated by the **Sun**. This is the best time to view and photograph Saturn and its moons.

When we look at Saturn what do we see? Not the surface.

Saturn is a ball made up almost entirely of hydrogen and helium. The density and temperature changes the deeper into the planet you go, but Saturn can't be said to have a solid surface. If you tried to walk on the surface of Saturn, you would fall into the planet, suffering higher temperatures and pressures until you were crushed inside the planet.

But Saturn appears to have a surface, so what are we looking at? The outer atmos-



phere of Saturn consists of 93% molecular hydrogen and the rest helium, with trace amounts of ammonia, acetylene, ethane, phosphine and methane. It's these trace amounts that create the visible bands and clouds that we see in pictures of Saturn.

That's why we say Saturn is a gas giant. It is the second largest planet, big enough to hold more than 760 Earths, and is more massive than any other planet except Jupiter, roughly 95 times Earth's mass. However, Saturn has the lowest density of all the planets, and is the only one less dense than water — if there were a bathtub big enough to hold it, Saturn would float on top.

Although the other gas giants in the solar system — Jupiter, **Uranus** and **Neptune** — also have rings, those of Saturn are without a doubt the most extraordinary. The largest one spotted to date spans up to 200 times the diameter of the planet.

Saturn is the farthest planet from Earth visible to the naked human eye. The yellow and gold bands seen in the planet's atmosphere are the result of super-fast winds in the upper atmosphere, which can reach up to 1,100 miles per hour (1,800 kilometers per hour) around its equator, combined with heat rising from the planet's interior.

Saturn spins faster than any other planet except Jupiter, completing a rotation roughly every 10 1/2 hours. This rapid spinning causes Saturn to bulge at its equator and flatten at its poles — the planet is 8,000 miles (13,000 kilometers) wider at its equator than between the poles. ■ *Bob Berman*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

Early April 2013

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Don't let others take advantage of your good nature. You can visit clients and make a big impression just by giving them some hands-on help. Don't hesitate to sign up for lectures or seminars that will enlighten you. You are apt to meet someone special on your journey. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Attend to things that you should have done yesterday. You are best to avoid joint ventures, and whatever you do, don't lend to friends or relatives. Focus on what's important rather than spreading yourself too thin and accomplishing little. You may be emotional about the way an organization you belong to is handling its business. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Risky financial ventures will result in unrecoverable losses. Luck is with you. You're in the mood to spend time with your lover. Try not to let your emotions interfere with the completion of your work. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Pleasure trips should be on your agenda. Don't let peers distract you or push their work your way. Advancement can be yours if you put your efforts into work related matters. Creative educational pursuits will pay off. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Pay attention to small but important details. Residential moves will also be advantageous for all concerned. You can expect changes at your work place. Be professional, and you will advance much more quickly. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Talk to an older family member you have helped in the past. You will have opportunities to advance, but you may have to be willing to make some changes and possibly a residential move. You will do best to entertain those you wish to close deals with. You may have to take a short trip

to visit someone who hasn't been well. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You can convince others to follow suit. Take care of chores that have been hanging over your head. Problems with colleagues are likely. Don't get talked into get rich quick schemes. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Take a long look at your present direction and consider your professional options. Face any emotional problems head-on to avoid situations getting out of hand. Changes could be overwhelming. Unreliable people will be negative about your ideas. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Be willing to listen, but don't be fooled. You can get good solid advice from relatives or close friends you trust. You'll be able to discuss your ambitions with your mate. You may find your mate somewhat perturbed. Your lucky day will be Tuesday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Try to be honest when dealing with your mate. You may need to make a few alterations to your living arrangements. Trips will be exciting. You will have some problems with children, but if you are patient you will win their favor. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Try not to be so demonstrative. Only offer to do the things you have time for. Luxury items will cost you more than you can truly afford. Don't overreact to someone's advances. Avoid extravagance or risky financial schemes. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You will be subject to pushy individuals if you get involved in uncertain organizations. You will find that joint ventures could easily turn out to be dead end projects. Set the ball in motion and be relentless until you complete the project. You will meet new friends and enjoy a multitude of new activities. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday. ■

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