

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** July 8-22, 2013; Year 20, Issue 14  
**The REPORTER**  
**BES Island News Too**

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. Phone 786-6518, 786-6125, [www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com) email: [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) Since 1994



## Dia di Arte

*Manuela Winklaar, one of Bonaire's top artists, with her vibrant underwater reef scene*

**I**t was a perfect day for art in the park. In Wilhelmina Park on Sunday more than 30 artists, musicians, dancers, singers and cooks showed up for the 21<sup>st</sup> Edition of Dia di Arte. On display were original paintings, jewelry, hand crafts, original quilts, even “rain sticks.” In the shady park on the waterfront, amid the cool breezes people strolled through the exhibits, pausing to look and often to buy. In the background Antillean music played and delicious fragrances of Bonairean and Surinamese cooking tempted.

During the day and into the evening on stage were performers – poetry

readers, dancers, singers and musical groups. Among them were Sharella and Giovanni Wanga, winners of the DuoFest who represented Bonaire in Curacao in June and Nethanja Bendt and Juliana Felida who were the overall winners at the Caribbean Gospel competitions in Curacao.

Big congratulations to Emma Sint Jago and her Art and Culture organization that have been bringing this marvelous real community event to the island for 21 consecutive years now. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*

*More photos on page 11*

# Flotsam and Jetsam

## BONAIRE The REPORTER



RCN photo

► Bonaire's new **Chief of Police Mrs. Hildegard Buitink**, was sworn in on July 1. Outgoing chief Jan Rooijakker transferred command of the corps ceremonially to her.

Bonaire now has three woman leaders, **Chief Buitink** and **Governor Emerencia**, and **Patricia Hassell**, the head of the prison. All are noted for being tough on crime and corruption.



Lloyd Obispo and Robert Smaal of Bon Bida Spa and Gym

► Start training now for the July 27 "Walk To Talk" event. DiBo (Diversity Bonaire) is organizing the island's **first Walk To Talk** with sponsorship by Bon Bida Spa and Gym, Magero Laundry, Boat Blanku Marine, and Caribe Rental. Two years ago Lloyd Obispo was approached by the, Curaçao Pride Foundation about setting up an LGTBI (a lesbian, gay, transsexual, bisexual and intersexual) organization on Bonaire. DIBO is the result and has already conducted several awareness-raising activities. Walk To Talk is the latest. The fund raiser (\$10, includes drinks and a towel) will be held on Saturday, July 27, beginning at 6 am until 10 am, from BonBida Spa to Mentor, to Kralendijk

and back to Bon Bida. It's healthy for body and mind. Tickets available from Bon Bida, the sponsors and Lloyd Obispo, Email: [human.rights.bonaire@live](mailto:human.rights.bonaire@live). Lloyd explains: "The purpose of DiBo is to establish awareness about the LGTBI community because there is a lot of discrimination and people are afraid of coming out. Family and friends are scared of the taboo. Many people still believe that a heterosexual relationship is the only relationship and they discriminate against people who are different. So, when you are different – not heterosexual – it's a very difficult life."

► **"Finally justice, as it should have happened. We fought."** Those were the first emotional words Nozai Thomas said after five years of incarceration in the double murder case known as the Spelonk Cave Case. He and Andy Melaan, who spent eight years behind bars in the same case, were freed on 1 July. The Common Court of Justice on Bonaire will formally review the case on September 5, but an innocent ruling is expected. New evidence presented by digital forensics showed the guilty ruling was defective. At the time of the trial there was extensive local support for the innocence of the men. Coincidentally, at the moment of release, the Public Prosecutor, who accused the men, now a civil attorney, was outside the court.

► There was a "shakedown" on June 25th in a section of Bonaire's downtown prison, the JICN. This happens regularly, but this one was more extensive than usual. There was support for this action from the **Customs drug dog**, the Royal Military Police (KMAR), **the police** (KPCN), and for the first time the colleagues of the prison in Aruba (KIA) who came over with their **"cell phone dog"** which is trained to detect cell phones.

Various items were confiscated like cell phones, drugs and homemade knives. Another shakedown will soon take place in the rest of the institution, according to an RCN press release. The detainees do not find these actions pleasant, however, the safety of inmates and staff is a priority. It was confirmed that all went well and the detainees cooperated well.

► **The high level investigation of Bonaire's government-owned water and electric supply company, WEB, NV**, begun in October 2012, is moving forward with a planned end date of September, 2013. Many aspects of the fundamentals, finances, procedures, management and operation of the utility will be reviewed. The review was motivated by the large price increases demanded by WEB for electricity and water.

► Dutch lawyers are to begin experiments with the **"No cure, no pay"** system next year, the Dutch Bar Association said last Thursday. "No cure, no pay" is the system whereby clients only pay their lawyer when their case is won.

At the moment, this system is banned under Dutch law, but a partial lifting of the ban, covering five years from January 2014, will allow the Bar Association to see if it encourages more people to take their case to court. The system is common practice in the US. "No cure, no pay" will be limited to injury compensation claims during the experiment.



► **The hatching of more than 100 loggerhead sea turtles** July 1 on Te Amo Beach prompted volunteers to take action, according to Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire. The baby turtles ambled to the sea with the help of a people-lined path, the viral photo on Imgur, above, shows.

"Cutest. Stampede. Ever," wrote one commenter. Perhaps that's why the image had collected nearly three-quarters of a million views on the photo-sharing site by Wednesday afternoon.

Zahnerphoto, who posted the picture, explained on Reddit that the "nesting site was close to the airport and lighting was a concern." Local observers said the daylight operation was more to keep the turtles from heading for the busy road.

According to *National Geographic*, loggerhead turtles have been on the "threatened species list" since 1978, due in part to pollution and development in their nesting areas.

Want to contribute to sea turtle conservation on Bonaire? Go to [www.bonaireturtles.org/](http://www.bonaireturtles.org/)

(Continued on page 18)

### This Week's Stories

Remembering Freedom (Dance)	3
Hans Hass Memorial	3
Reader Survey	3
New Dive Friends Pier	5
Tourism History #11-Stinapa Parks-Slagbaai	6
Sunbelt-20 Year Anniversary	7
Dr. Van der Vaart Honored	7
SELIBON Move	7
Useful Gadgets-Joi Light	8
Bonaire Culinary Victories	8
Gecko Behind the Canvas	9
Zr. Ms. Holland Meets Bonaire	10
Mountain Bike Fun Race	10
Dia di Arte- Art Day	11
Sustainable Bonaire (Bonaire Duradero)	12
Food Pantry Need	15
Editorial—Tene Bonaire Limpi. Corruption	16
Working Bonaire	16

### Departments

Flotsam & Jetsam	2
On the Island Since (Doesjka Falkenburg-Baart)	4
Helmets on Wheels (Scooters Bonaire Helmets)	5
Picture Yourself- San Francisco	12
Sudoku, Sudoku Answer	13
Classifieds	13
Tide Table, Sunrise & Sunset Times, Moon Phase	13
Shopping & Dining Guides	14
What's Happening, Masthead,	17
Did You Know? Coral Disease	16
Pet of the Week (Alexis & Andrea - kittens)	18
Shelter News (Choice Art/Auction)	18
Bonaire Sky Park (Planet Month)	19
The Stars Have It (Astrology)	19

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## Remembering Freedom

On July 2 at the waterfront Wilhelmina Plaza the abolition of slavery 150 years ago was celebrated.

The ceremony began around 7:30 pm with the Bonaire national anthem followed by several speakers who told what, from their point of view, the abolition of slavery meant for them, us and the island of Bonaire.

- **Herbert Domacassé** represented the clergy

- **Marcelo G. Anthony**, represented the Bonaire Association of trade unions

- **Wilbert Julius Stolte**, Kingdom Representative (*Rijkvertegenwoordiger*) for the BES Islands represented the Netherlands

- Deputy **Silvana Serafilia** was the representative for the island of Bonaire.

After this there were four dance performances choreographed by Maya Stewart.

Dancers were Maya Stewart, Tharia Phelipa and Sean Saleh. All four dances were stylish and nicely executed. During and after the event food and drinks were available.

■ *Story & photo by Wilna Groenenboom*



**The Dance Cast a Spell featured Maya Stewart**

## Hans Hass at "Beneath the Sea"



**Dive visionary Hans Hass passed away on June 16 at 95. This reprint is from March 3, 2006 Bonaire Reporter**



**Hans Hass with The Reporter**

Dee Scarr found the recent "Beneath the Sea" Dive Show interesting and sent us a couple of wonderful photos of Hans Hass, Austrian

dive pioneer, and his wife Lotte (né Baierl). Hans first explored underwater



**Hans Hass and Lotte in the 1940s**  
Draeger photos



**Lotte Hass signs; Dee Scarr looks on.**  
Dee Scarr photos

Bonaire in 1939. After World War II he returned for more adventures.

When Dee asked them for a photo with *The Reporter* instead of just posing with the paper, they signed it. We will frame it in our office. Hans is now 87 years old. Hans and Lotte have been married for 56 years. G.D.

## Reader Survey

Rank the contents of this week's issue. Best 1, second 2, etc.. Please choose at least 5 items

Survey may be taken on line as well. Go to [www.bonairenews.com](http://www.bonairenews.com)

Flotsam & Jetsam (News Bits)	_____
Remembering Freedom (Dance)	_____
Hans Hass Memorial	_____
On the Island Since	_____
Helmets on Wheels	_____
New Dive Friends Pier	_____
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Pet of the Week	_____
Shelter News (Choice Art/Auction)	_____
Bonaire Sky Park (Planet Month)	_____
The Stars Have It (Astrology)	_____
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Readers of this newspaper can cut, paste and email the survey to [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) or mail to PO Box 407, Postkantoor Playa, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands (CN)

July 8-22, 2013

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# On the island Since 1971 and 2010... Doesjka Falkenburg-Baart

“Our family was not the average one. I lost my mom when I was two and my father remarried when I was five. My stepmom had a little daughter, Marijke, who was three years old. Her dad, who was Jewish, had been shot by the Germans in Amsterdam when her mom was pregnant with her. So we became sisters. We lived in the east of Holland, in the middle of the woods. One year later we had a little brother, Henk, and then we moved to Aruba. I was seven years old when my dad was appointed the vicar of the Protestant church in Oranjestad. We went by ship; it lasted three weeks and it was very exiting as we went to exotic places like Madeira and Trinidad. On Aruba our sister Mary was born. She’s the only Antillean in the family.



Doesjka and her cat Tommy

My childhood was like living in paradise. I remember Sunday morning arriving at the beach and the only person who was there was a fisherman and his donkey. There were no hotels. I remember people picking the lobsters from the seaweeds with a hook and I recall many picnics at Boca Prins in the shade of the grape trees.

When I was 13 my parents decided we were going back to Holland because of the schools. We lived in Blaricum, where my father was the vicar. It was a lovely place surrounded by moors and woods. I really feel privileged because all my life I’ve been surrounded by natural beauty.

Well, to our great surprise our parents had two more children. When Johan, my little brother was born, one and a half years later we had another little sister, Olga, so Johan wouldn’t grow up alone!

When I finished high school, I wanted to see the world and work with people, so I went to Bedford, England, as an au-pair, to learn perfect English. From there I moved to Reims, France, to perfect my French. Then I went back to Holland and through a friend of my dad I was offered a job at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport, working for Martin Air, a Dutch airline. I did that for one year and there I met my first husband and we had our daughter, Natasja.

My husband was from Bonaire, so in 1971 I came to live here. At the time Bonaire was pristine and there was very little tourism. We lived across from Flamingo Beach Club – now Divi Flamingo Hotel. The only place you could go to at night was the bar at Flamingo Beach. Don Stewart - ‘Captain Don’ - was running Flamingo Beach with its little barracks, and for happy hour you would find only one tourist at the bar and Cai Cai, the local singer, would be singing and performing ‘Yellow Bird’ while he accompanied himself on the guitar. Also, there was an exotic American lady, who would sing ‘Summertime’ with a huge live snake around her neck. And maybe there would

be one or two local people – us! That was our little outing.

Our house was spacious. It was around where Sunshine Supermarket is now – built in the middle of a huge empty area with whirlwinds of dust in the dry season and infested with mosquitoes when it rained. I was always gardening, that’s what I loved and still love and I feel that in every garden I planted, I left a little piece of my heart. I am typically a plant collector; when I see something I don’t

**“...for happy hour you would find only one tourist at the bar and Cai Cai, the local singer, would be singing and performing ‘Yellow Bird’ ...”**

have, I make sure I get seeds or clippings. That’s the way I function.

In 1973 my son Alexander was born. Every day I would go snorkeling at the pier at Flamingo Beach. Alexander practically grew up there. We only had to cross the street. You have no idea how much fish there were – unbelievable, what abundance – it was like a fairy tale. When my son was six months old he could swim! Of course with the wings, but he was so eager to follow his sister, it made him unstoppable. The American tourists at Flamingo Beach would scream: ‘Look at that baby! He can swim!’ He’s 40 now, he lives in Holland and works for KLM. He has three children and his dream is to return to Bonaire for good someday and to go fishing and free diving.

We also used to have a small house on the sea in Belnem. It had a little pristine beach and a cave. I put a seed of a flamboyant tree in the soil and it took more than eight years for the tree to bloom. We used to go there with the whole family, and the dogs and the kids would jump from the pier. And we went waterskiing with the boat. It’s funny, but years and years later I still feel nostalgia for that



Doesjka and her plants...

place.

In 1976 I opened my boutique ‘Natasja & Alexander’ in Kaya Grandi and started selling swim wear. Then it became dresses and shoes and it went well; I had many local customers and Venezuelan ladies also came to buy frequently.

In 1984 my husband and I separated and later we got divorced. I don’t feel bitter about it; I had a wonderful time. I went with my children to Holland and I thought I would never see the island again - not knowing that later Natasja would marry a Bonairean, Ibi Statie, and move back to Bonaire. I stayed in Holland for one year and then I moved with my son to Miami,

because their parents had been on a trip. I was going home the next day and Joshua was coming with me. I’d talked to Ralph the night before and he had said he would come to pick us up. But when we arrived, there was no one at the airport. It was so unlike Ralph that my heart stopped. We lived in a gated community and I called the security service to ask them to check on Ralph. And that’s how they found him; he’d died of a heart attack. He was nine years younger than I and it had never entered my mind that I would survive him...

Then I had to make up my mind. In Miami I lived in a Latin/Cuban community but also I was used to the Caribbean way of life. I love Holland as a country and I even like the climate because I am not a fan of the heat and the drought, but I decided to move to Bonaire instead of Holland. Because of the many times I came here to look after my grandchildren I already had friends here. One of my oldest friends is Daniella Bernabela whom I met when she was t12, a little girl with long braids, and we’ve been friends ever since.

I am happy to be back. I love to get up early and go for a walk on Playa Lechi. I love the pelicans and the fishing boats. I love to roam the wild coast looking for driftwood. I love the donkeys and I want them to stay where they are. I love to be close to my grandchildren and my daughter, whom I am very proud of and my wonderful son-in-law. I love to go to Daniella’s house and watch the full moon with a glass of wine or a *ponche crema* and I love to see the sun set in the sea. That’s the beauty of the island.

But... I do feel lonely sometimes and I guess I will miss my husband for the rest of my life because we had a very good relationship and that’s something you just don’t forget.” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Bonaire Reporter- July 8-22, 2013

# Dive Friends New Pier

Bonaire/Playa – On Wednesday July 3rd the completely repaired and restored pier of Cha Cha Beach, located in front of the Dive Inn, one of the many locations of Dive Friends Bonaire, was officially opened by Commissioner James Kroon.

The pier was destroyed by the tropical storm or hurricane Omar in October 2008, and especially the local people and all pupils from teacher Edmundo Franklin Christiaan's swimming school really missed a safe, comfortable and durable pier.

Finally it was Dive Friends Bonaire which invested an awesome amount of money on material and labor to rebuild the pier. Patrick van Bree, better known as "Bob the Builder," supervised the project and the result is a real gain for the community of Bonaire.

Carolyn Caporusso from Dive Friends Bonaire gave a little speech (in English), followed by the deputy of Bonaire. Then there was a cozy party for the kids who love their island, their sea, their new pier and their teacher.

The photograph was shot around 6 pm. On the left: Carolyn Caporusso from Dive Friends Bonaire, then: our deputy, a bunch of five smiling and happy Bonairean youngsters, and Edmundo Franklin Christiaan, the more than well-known teacher who taught some six generations to swim. Quite an achievement or tour de force!

The completely renovated pier is constructed with durable and eco-friendly materials. An old solid metal structure is used as a kind of parasol or sun roof to create shelter against the sun. Two wooden back-to-back benches were built by Patrick for visitors and pupils of Mister Christiaan's swimming school.

Edmundo Franklin Christiaan (better known as "Eddy"/jb) says: "My pupils and I are very pleased with the complete rebuild and extension of the old pier. It is now the sixth generation of youngsters that I am teaching and coaching how to swim. I am a fisherman myself and in those days, way back in the last century, some 60% of our people were not able to swim. Even the bravest and most experienced fishermen did not know how to



Dive Friends' Carolyn Caporusso, Commissioner James Kroon, Eddy Christiaan and some kids at the pier

swim! I love to teach my Bonairean pupils to swim. I inform them about endurance and respect too. I organize swimming lessons every Monday and Wednesday after school hours. When I prepare the kids for their exams there are extra lessons on a Friday. If they can pay for the lessons it is good. If they are not able to pay, it is fine with me too. This is an example of the traditional and classical way of Bonairean thinking. That is why I like the support with money and labor by Dive Friends so much. They just rolled up the sleeves of their shirts and started the job. Of course they make use of the benefits as well. Then, at least Dive Friends Bonaire did it. This is a very popular location for local people to enjoy the sea. Now there is a pier, there are some benches and there is shade!"

It is about six in the late afternoon or early evening. The sun is leaving the island. Youngsters enjoy their time in and around their own sea and a Bonairean dog keeps on swimming and chasing after the wooden stick the boys and girls keep throwing in the water. The kids enjoy a soft drink, and for some of them it is the first time they've tasted a black and white licorice stick presented to them by Dive Friends Bonaire.

One of the girls from the swimming school says, "We are fond of our teacher and we are very happy with this new pier. There is a wooden ladder to get out of the water, there are benches and there is shade. We are proud of our pier and now we are responsible for it. We have to keep it clean and in a good condition!" ■ Story & photo by J@n Brouwer

# HELMETS ON WHEELS

THIS IS THE 20<sup>TH</sup> OF A SERIES OF BONAIRE REPORTER SHORT ARTICLES BY J@N BROUWER, ABOUT HELMETS AND HELMET AWARENESS.

## Scooters Bonaire Helmets

Bonaire/Playa –

On Saturday, June 29, Elma and Joop and their employees from Scooters Bonaire showed their new scooter and bicycle shop located at Kaya Grandi 72, opposite the Chamber of Commerce, to the public of Bonaire. Scooters Bonaire is well known because of renting scooters for several years now. The crew was more than proud to show their 300-square-meter, two-wheeler shop, a shop with the real smell of rubber and metal. Elma and Joop have loads and loads of city bikes, mountain bikes and scooters for sale and for rent. And there is a serious corner with helmets: jet helmets with visors from Beon and Nano and full face helmets from Demm. Prices start at \$90.



If you decide to buy a scooter for \$1500 or more you receive a chain lock or a helmet for free up to a value of \$100. If you decide to rent a bike, a mountain bike or a scooter it automatically comes with a serious lock. Scooters Bonaire offers you a helmet for an additional \$2.50 a day.

Apart from more than some 60 helmets in stock Bonaire Scooters is able to order every helmet their client wants because of the influence of modern times and internet. Parts for helmets, bicycles and scooters are not a single problem as most brands are well known and the supply of spare parts is well organized. Just pass by and hop in or take a look at the web page: scootersbonaire.com. Enjoy life as long as you can. Wear a helmet. ■ Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



### Voordeelmarkt Bonaire - Bargain Mart Bonaire



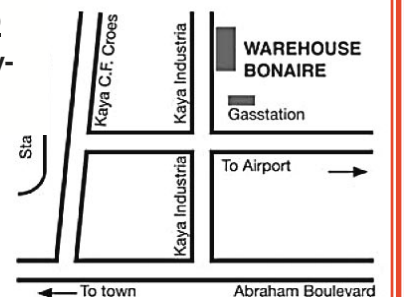
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# Tourism History

## TOURISM HISTORY PART 11- STINAPA NATIONAL PARKS

### Part 1: Washington Slagbaai Park

The island of Bonaire is blessed with some of the most beautiful and delicate species in the world: tropical fish, turtles and flamingos. They themselves as well as their habitats, the reefs, the beaches and the salinas are the object of preservation efforts for over half a century.

Already in 1962 the islands belonging to the Netherlands Antilles had a foundation aimed at protecting the nature of the respective islands, the Netherlands Antilles National Parks Foundation (*Stichting Nationale Parken Nederlandse Antillen*, STINAPA N.A.). Bonaire was the first to receive the attention of the organization, founded in Curaçao. The breeding grounds of the Caribbean Flamingo needed protection and Washington Park was created in 1969. The next addition was the Slagbaai plantation which was purchased in 1977. Thus the Washington Slagbaai National Park was born, the first nature sanctuary in the Netherlands Antilles, covering almost one fifth of the island of Bonaire. The park was officially inaugurated in 1979. In that same year, the Bonaire National Marine Park was created.

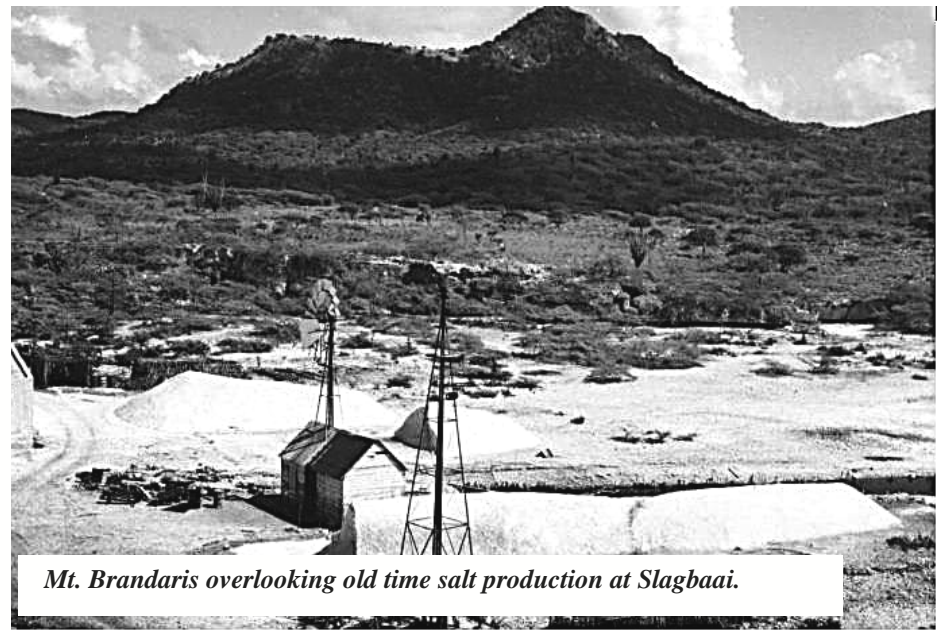
Each island used to have its own STINAPA commission, but in the course of the 80s, when Aruba separated from the Netherlands Antilles, the commissions were transformed into independent national park foundations. Bonaire got its own STINAPA Bonaire which describes its mission as "being dedicated to the conservation of Bonaire's natural and historical heritage through the sustainable use of its resources." This includes information and education among locals and visitors alike. Native flora and fauna are to be protected, conserved and restored in a sustainable manner, of course.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the island of Bonaire was a mere plantation belonging to the Dutch West India Company and later to the government of the Colony Curaçao, which included both Aruba and Bonaire. In 1868, after the abolition of slavery, the government held a public auction to sell parcels of land in Bonaire. These became plantations, like the one on the north-west part of the island: Slagbaai Plantation. The name "Slagbaai" comes from *Slachtbaai*, which means Slaughter Bay, where goats were slaughtered before being exported to Curaçao. Slagbaai became the property of Moises Jesurun and the Neuman brothers, John, August and Casper. Twenty-four years later, they sold it to the Debrot family who sold the northerly part to the Herrera family in 1920. The original name of this plantation was "America" (several plantations on Bonaire were named after a country). At the entrance, a house for the plantation supervisor was built where the workers, mainly women from Rincon, came to apply for work and where they got their pay, not so much in cash, but in provisions and goods. Thus this building became the most impor-

tant part of the plantation America and consequently it got the name of the capital of the "real" America: Washington, a name that would forever be connected to this plantation and to the national park. The plantations supplied a variety of products for exportation to Curaçao: goats, salt, divi-divi pods, charcoal and aloe extract, which was considered as being of the highest quality on the market.

In 1967, the Island Government of Bonaire adopted an important local act (*Natuurbeschermings- en monumentenverordening 1967*) aimed at protecting the island's fauna, flora, cultural monuments and nature reserves. Whoever entered those illegally or was caught carrying a rifle and bringing a dog, could be fined 500 florins or jailed for up to two months. In those days, Bonaire did not have nature reserves, but that was about to change. In that same year, Julio Cesar 'Boy' van der Ree, member of the Herrera family and owner of the plantation, realized that his end was near and he wished to prevent the plantation from falling into the hands of project developers after his death. He came to an agreement with the local government to sell the estate under the condition that it would be turned into a nature reserve. In 1969, STINAPA acquired this part while the Slagbaai Plantation, after years of negotiations with the Debrot family, became the property of the foundation in 1977. STINAPA also acquired the adjoining property called Brasil and the Goto Lake area from the local government.

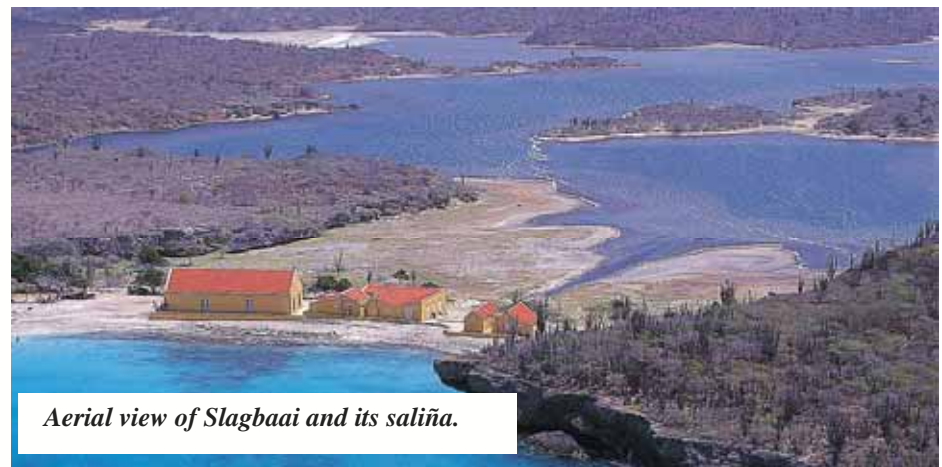
The funds to acquire both Slagbaai and Washington area came from the Island Government of Bonaire, the Dutch Government, Prins Bernard Fonds and quite a few commercial institutions, like banks, insurance companies and industries on Bonaire, Curaçao and the Netherlands. The area covers over 13,500 acres (5.600 hectares) of limestone plateaus (in the north), mountainous terrain (in the center and south), with the highest peak, the Brandaris (241m./784 ft.). The park has several inlets with beaches (called *bokas*), salt flats (*saliñas*), and sweet water sources which attract flocks of birds, like the "Lora," a native parrot. Visitors have the choice between two routes,



Mt. Brandaris overlooking old time salt production at Slagbaai.



Slagbaai premises before restoration.



Aerial view of Slagbaai and its saliña.

one longer than the other, along which they can hike, enjoy the view, snorkel or dive from the beaches or visit the museum at the visitor centre.

Evert Bongers

(sources: [www.washingtonparkbonaire.org/history](http://www.washingtonparkbonaire.org/history) and research by Bòi Antoin)

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# Sunbelt Realty 20 Years

Sunbelt Realty has been rocking for 20 years! In the ever changing world of real estate business on Bonaire it has proven to be a rock-solid and reliable partner for buyers and sellers.

Recently, the entire Sunbelt Realty team had more than one reason to party like rock stars.

To celebrate the company's 20 years in business, the entire crew went on a short vacation in the All-inclusive Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Rumor has it that all party animals ate only healthy food, drank fresh carrot juice and slept long hours to completely rejuvenate.

At the same time, properties and prospects were not left unattended. Skilled stand-in team, Iris and Max, under the supervision of Lia Lameris, took care of the agency's daily business on Bonaire.

Sunbelt's official birthday was June 20. On that day the staff surprised managers, Corine van der Hout and Jan Henk van der Wier, with a "birthday cake" that rock stars can only dream of. All visitors at one of the two offices of Sunbelt Realty were treated that day with a piece of the celebration cake. ■ *Press release*



Sunbelt's management and staff in the D.R. Corine and Henk in the inset with the cake

## Dr. Dick van der Vaart Honored

On June 14, the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (www.uhms.org) at its annual Scientific Meeting in Orlando, Florida, honored Bonaire's Dr. Dick van der Vaart with the title "Fellow of Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine." He is one of 30 persons who at this moment possess this prestigious worldwide award.

The UHMS gave this award to Dr. Van der Vaart as recognition for his work and commitment during the last 27 years in diving medicine on Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands, and for his local pioneering work in the field of hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

Dr. Van der Vaart is presently working as the medical director and head physician with the Recompression Chamber on Bonaire. (www.bonairehyperbaric.com) ■ *Press release*



Dr. Dick van der Vaart receives the FUHM certificate from Dr. John Feldmeier

## SELIBON Move

On July 1, SELIBON's Customer Service and Reception as well as its Sales and Marketing office moved from upstairs in Kaya Grandi to the Plasa Medio Ambiente - the Waste Separation Area - the Milieuplein on Kaya Industria nr. 25.

The new location is easily accessible for all people and there's always space to park! ■ *Story & photo by Greta Kooistra*

Photo: Mr. Raimy Thomas, SELIBON's Sales and Marketing person, showing the new reception.





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# Useful Gadgets

THIS IS THE 5<sup>TH</sup> COLUMN ABOUT USEFUL GADGETS FOR SALE ON BONAIRE IN A SERIES OF 100.

## Let There Be Light

Bonaire/Kralendijk – As far as I know for the moment Budget Marine Bonaire has the cheapest and the most expensive useful gadgets for sale. The cheapest useful gadget is the cute, handy, little effective knife sharpener with tungsten steel and ceramic sharpening bars, made by Rapala. Price: a stunning and astonishing \$2.50! (It was immediately sold out after publishing an article about this topic but luckily it's back in stock again.) The most expensive useful gadget is the **ingenious led light, made by Joi from Canada.**



We're talking about an intriguing and ingenious light made of stainless steel, glass, durable plastic and a magic unit made and powered by Thermology, a registered trade mark.

The lamp looks like a little stainless steel house with several windows. Power is supplied by an ordinary 16 millimeters high tea candle, power is converted to a bunch of nine modern and energy saving led lights by a converter made by Thermology. To bathe your entire table in warm light, simply grasp the lamp head roof and extend the telescopic arms which Ingenious Led Lighting connect the house of the lamp to the roof of the lamp, this way creating a nice and functional table lamp.

After buying the lamp and getting it out of the box the gadget is ready for use. Simply open the front door and install a fresh unburned four-hour tea light candle. Light the candle and wait for some 45 seconds. Close the door and wait a few minutes. Then the led lights are charged and start emitting for hours.

This useful gadget is not cheap. You have to pay \$150 for it. However, it lasts a life time and it runs up to four hours on an ordinary tea light. The Joi Ingenious Lighting is economical to use. The device is completely independent and the perfect solution for lighting problems when there is no current or no current available. Think of power shut offs, camping and other outdoor activities.

Pamela Teitel-Werdath (Manager of Budget Marine Bonaire): "In the beginning I had some three of these magic lights in stock. I thought they were effective and fun. Then, on the other hand they are quite pricy. A local fisherman bought the independent led lamp, then some owners of *kunukus* (typical Bonairean farms or *fincas* in the very remote outback/*jb*). One Bonairean bought the magic light as a special birthday present for his mother and several people bought the lamp because of the problems that unfortunately occur every now and then because the WEB (*Water- en Energiebedrijf Bonaire/Water and Energy Supply Bonaire*) is still trying to find the right way to produce and supply electricity. The size of tea lights appeared not to be standardized. European tea lights have a slightly larger diameter, but the right size for this special led lamp is widely available on our island. We have a very good connection with the developers and producers in Canada and they will adjust the size or capacity of the light alloy tea light holder."

For more information you can surf to [www.caframo.com](http://www.caframo.com) or to [www.termology.com](http://www.termology.com) Or just hop in at Budget Bonaire and see and touch and experience this little magic light yourself! ■ *Jan Brouwer*

*We just got one and find it beautiful, useful and amazing— Great for those no WEB power nights. Ed.*

## Bonaire Culinary Victories



After a six-year break, the Bonaire Culinary team did very well in the Taste of the Caribbean competition held in Miami from June 26 to 30. Bonaire's Culinary Team consisted of **Junior Janga, Norison Conquet, Giovanni Veld, Rhasindo Donge, Robertico Bernbela and Tarimar Thom.** They received support from **Floris van Loo**, Team Manager; **Liz Rijna and Isidoor van Riemsdijk**, Team Coaches; and Chefs **Richard Palsgraaf, Han ten Winkel and Wil Heemskerck.**

The Team received eight awards:

1. The Caribbean National Team **Bronze Medal**
2. The Hans Schenk Commemorative Award for the in the Taste of the Caribbean competition in Miami using indigenous ingredients

Individual Awards:

3. Chef Of The Year: Bronze Medal - **Robertico Bernbela**
4. Bartender Of The Year: Silver Medal - **Tarimar Thom**
5. Pastry Chef Honorary Mention -- **Junior Janga**
6. Junior Chef: Bronze Medal -- **Giovanni Veld**
7. Rums Of Puerto Rico Mystery Basket Competition- **Jheison Jaquez**
8. Cheesecake Competition Honorary Mention- **Norison Conquet** ■ *Press release*

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# A Gecko Behind the Canvas



## PART 4 IN THE SERIES, DOWN IN THE LAND OF BON BINI

It wasn't long after moving to the island that I discovered we were not alone in our new home on Playa Pabou. Strange creatures of the night came out after the red ball of a sun melted slowly into the horizon. Like a fleeting Green Flash, I would often see a gecko peeking from behind a painting on the wall, and then make quick tracks for the darkness. Until then, I was unaware of its presence. This act of something appearing one way and then turning out to be another reminded me that not all things are what they initially appear to be on the *dushi* island of Bonaire. There are times one needs to look behind the canvas.

Take resort developments, for instance. You hear stories. "The Hilton is going to build its next hotel here." "The Divi Resort chain is starting construction down by Sunset Beach." The rumors are numerous and humorous, but few ever materialize or live up to the hype. The Hilton didn't. They pulled out of their promises before even breaking ground. The Divi, on the other hand, built a massive Quonset-shaped tent to shelter model apartments so prospective buyers could view the structures in comfortable shade. At a public unveiling of their future plans, Divi pledged an all-inclusive resort, specialty restaurants and bars, 300 meters of prime beach front, and for those who wanted a piece of their own paradise, 75 luxury condos with "lush landscaping, pools, and astonishing views." A 2009 delivery date was promised. A year later, the only thing standing was the tent, and that was being overgrown by weeds. Another year passed before the entire structure was dismantled leaving behind the empty plot much like it was before. And so it goes on the island, and the gecko just grins.

This chameleon-esque concept holds true for legal matters as well. I am still in awe of the disproportionate time it takes to secure documents with little regard to their actual importance. I remember gathering a 3-inch stack of papers in order to secure legal resident status on Bonaire. There were bank statements, passports, birth certificates, statements from American police departments declaring we were crime free, health documents from medical doctors proving we were HIV-free—even papers proving that the legal documents we submitted were legal. You would think the original would be enough, but no. I had to get an apostille, a legal document declaring that the legal document I was submitting was indeed a legal document. What? By the time I walked into the immigration office, I expected to see Radar, that red tape guru from the American TV series, M\*A\*S\*H, grinning wildly behind the counter in eager anticipation of finding something missing. This was deep *kimchi*, a bureaucratic *bruja*, a tropical punch without the rum. I felt like I was sailing between a ship-eating reef and a submerged sandbar. One slip-up and I was going under. Fair winds prevailed, however, and we were graciously accepted as permanent residents of the island.

Still, months later when the freighter *Doña Luisa* safely delivered my 14-foot sailboat to the dock, I braced myself for another eminent paper chase. Don't get me wrong. The effort to get a boat into the country was much less than securing residency, and that is the way it should be. But there were certainly hoops to hop through. I went to Rocargo, my shipping company, to get a pile of importation papers with a rather impressive 'release' stamp on the front. Then I went to the tax office and purchased two, five-guilder stamps (about \$2.82 each). I put one on my papers to the National Marine Park to secure a mooring in the harbor. The other went on the front of my importation papers that I took to the customs man where my boat had been transferred. Upon showing the stamp, I received my "Eilandgebied Bonaire Verunning", my boat permit. Almost done. Next, I was steered toward the harbormas-

ter—one last stop in this maritime madness. I was sure a gecko would be hiding behind the door. But the harbormaster, Rob Sint Jago, proved to be a nice guy. We talked about boats. We talked about weather.

Then he asked me how I was going to use my boat. "Well," I hesitantly responded thinking this might be the trick question that would sink my ship, "I plan to sail it." "Ah," Rob responded, "You MUST go fishing!" Sint Jago then went on to tell me how great the fishing is right here in front of his office and insisted that I would get bored just sitting there sailing. I believe Bonaireans feel that the simple act of moving through the water is not enough. You must have a purpose. You can't just sail. You must fish too! I nodded meekly in agreement even knowing I would never cast a line over the rail. My registration paper received an official "thump," rivaling any that I have heard in custom offices around the world. "And by the way," shouted Harbormaster Sint Jago as I quickly headed to the door and on to sailing bliss. "There is no charge. Just come back in six months and we will renew it for free."

I later discovered that even the trees on Bonaire have the ability to masquerade as something else. Take the kibrachacha tree for instance. As my friend Fernando Simal told me, "Kibrachacha means ax breaker in Papiamentu. The wood is so hard that it earned this name from those who tried to cut it down." The trees in this picture certainly belie the fact that kibrachachas are so tough. Delicate, yellow blooms mask their rugged resilience. But wait, there is more. Three days before I took this photo, there were no flowers to be seen on this hillside. Then, the island got a soaking rain in the



Incredibly beautiful Kibrachacha-in-bloom hillside

night. Three days after this photo was taken all the yellow was gone. The flowers only lasted but a few days before falling off. Geckos must live among these trees too.

Spend any amount of time on the water and you will soon learn that the sea has its own illusions. The other day I sailed my tiny boat, *Kontentu*, late into the evening. The sun had set, but its reflective light remained high overhead. When I looked to the water, the usual Caribbean blue had vanished. It was replaced by midnight black with slashes of pink, lavender and gold from above. The sea took on a magical, steely shimmer as darkness encroached. I sailed back to my mooring off of Playa Pabou, tied up and popped a Heineken in salute to the day. By the time I swam to shore, it was pitch black. I watched electric-green phosphorescence—that magical, aquatic stew of molecules and energy—flow off my fingers with each stroke. It made me want to swim forever. But the shore abruptly interrupted those thoughts. I was back on land and hunger grabbed my attention. It is time for food and home. It was also time to see the gecko peek from behind the canvas, just one more time. I wonder what surprise he has for me this evening. ■

Story & photos  
by Patrick Holian



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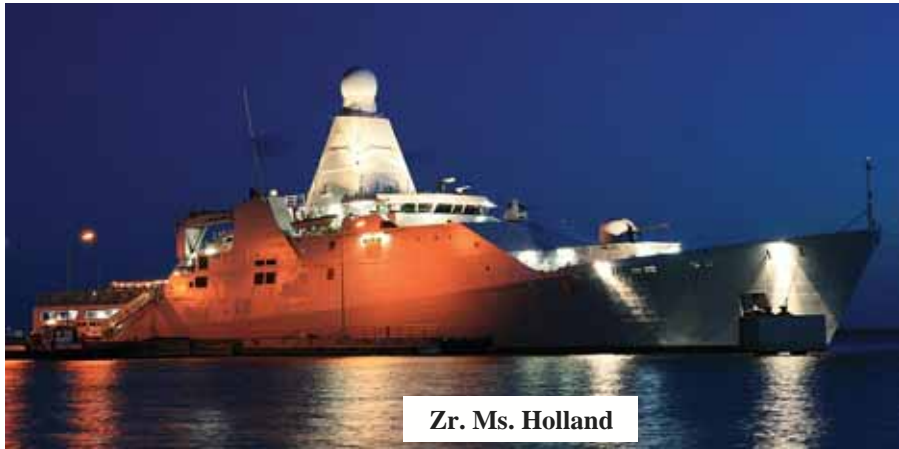
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9:00 - 10:00 TRX	9:00 - 10:00 Pump		9:30 to 10:30 Zumba	9:00 - 9:45 Lady-TRX	9:00 to 10:00 Spinning
					10:00 - 11:00 Pump
18:00 to 19:00 Pump	18:00 to 19:00 Pump	18:30 to 19:30 Spinning	17:30 to 19:00 Yoga		
19:00 to 20:00 Spinning	19:00 to 20:00 Zumba	19:30 to 20:30 TRX	19:00 - 20:00 Pump		
20:00 to 21:00 TRX	20:00 to 21:00 Balance				

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# Zr. Ms. Holland Meets Bonaire



Zr. Ms. Holland

On Wednesday evening 3 July, Bonaire Governor (*Gezaghebber*) Lydia Emerencia officially handed over a Bonairean flag to Captain Lieutenant-at-Sea (Commander) C.M. "Chris" van den Berg to welcome the Dutch Navy's newest ship to the island. In return the Captain presented the ship's crest to the governor. A mix of government officials, other invited guests and press were on hand for the ceremony.

It is the first time that the *Zr. Ms. Holland* visited Bonaire. She was christened by Queen Beatrix on February 2, 2010 and went into service about a year ago. Her current mission in the Caribbean Basin began on May 20, 2013, in Curaçao.

This ship has three main tasks in its Caribbean Mission: drug control, Coast Guard activities and humanitarian operations.

The first major action for the patrol ship was on 5 June when she rescued 10 persons from a burning and sinking ship. The *Holland* had followed the ship because it was suspected that a large amount of drugs was on board. The rescued crew members were transferred to a US Coast Guard vessel.

The second was a go-fast action. Although the load of drugs from the fleeing ship was thrown overboard during the chase, they were fished from the sea by the crew of the *Holland's* RIB (rigid inflatable boat).

Efficiently designed for naval operations of the 21st century, this ship normally carries a minimum of 50 to 55 men and women (presently six women) on board. At present there are 65, including an extra doctor and six Marines. If the ship is used for humanitarian purposes, such as in a hurricane, and people



Governor Emerencia and Captain Chris van den Berg exchange gifts

need to be evacuated, then it can accommodate 100 extra people for up to three days.

The *Holland* is almost 108 meters long, with spacious aisles inside and areas for marine operations, very efficient in a technical sense.

Some specifics about the ship from *Jane's Navy International*

It has a "one-man bridge." All ship operations including navigation, control and monitoring of platform systems, and warfare functions, can be controlled from a single operations station on the bridge deck. Under normal conditions, the bridge and opera-

tions room are open to each other, although a ballistic bulkhead partition can be closed up if necessary. The vessel is equipped with a variety of armament including a 76mm cannon.

Putting endurance and sea-keeping ahead of speed, the ship uses its on-board NH90 helicopter and embarked RHIBs to interdict and prosecute targets. The helicopter is able to identify and track targets significantly beyond the ship's sensor horizon, while the high-speed RHIB can be used for boarding operations.

Two 12-meter-long RHIBs are aboard. One is launched and recovered via a stern slipway, the other from a boat davit on the port side. Additional payloads can be handled, including stowage for two 20-foot containers or pallets in a multifunction space beneath the flight deck. A 10-ton crane is fitted on the starboard side for cargo handling, with payloads being lowered onto the cargo deck through a hatch in the flight deck. ■ *Story & photos by Wilna Groenenboom*

## Mountain Bike Fun Race

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Information by DeFreewieler

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# Dia di Arte



*Jewelry designer Charlene Bosch-Tixi and her stunning pieces*



*Artist Alied with her fairy-tale goat portraits and superb art*



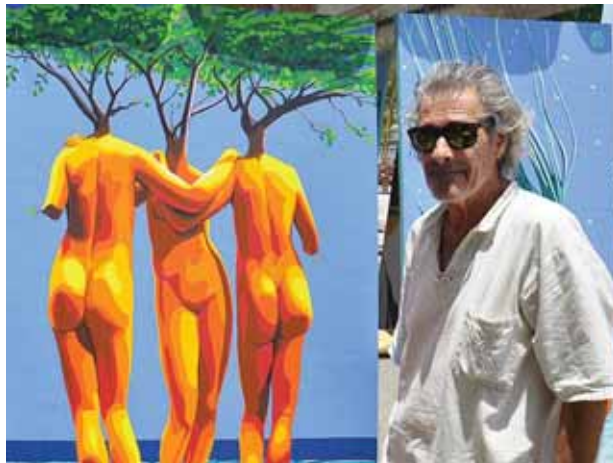
*Multi-talented Luz Aida Franco Wesselius with some of her new paintings*



*Musician-Artist Gaby Mercera and his colorful "Rain Sticks"*



*Jewelry/Ceramic artist Mamita Fox had help from her grandson*



*Ever popular Henk Roozendaal displayed several fantastic new super-sized paintings*



*Master Artist Helen Dovale (aka "Elena") with her whimsical works & new birthday calendars*



*Mosaic artists: sisters Agnes (left) and Riet (right) with their friend, Jeanine (center)*

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**Harbour Village Beach Club**

Phone # 717-7500

Kaya Gobernador N. Debrot 71  
Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

# Picture Yourself With The Reporter Near the Golden Gate, San Francisco.



**L**ouise Marquering of Corvallis, Oregon, writes, "Dear *Bonaire Reporter*, We have had eight wonderful diving trips to Bonaire and will be there again in 2013. When we tell most people on the west coast we are going to Bonaire they have no clue where it is.

This past year I carried *The Bonaire Reporter* with me to San Francisco and had my picture taken with the paper in front of the Golden Gate Bridge. Then I found that I had lost the "Picture yourself" information on Page 6. I hope I am sending the photo to the right place and have provided sufficient information.

I was born and raised in San Francisco, but moved to Oregon when the hippies came. I was in the city for a high school reunion, the Nike Women's Half Marathon, my God-daughter's wedding, genealogy and fun with friends." ■

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# Sustainable Bonaire Market *Boneiru Duradero*



Some of Bonaire's most successful growers were there to answer questions

**"T**he Duradero Boneiru"- or "Sustainable Bonaire" - Market exhibition on Saturday, June 22, in the parking lot next to It Rains Fishes restaurant brought out a number of exhibitors showing what's available on the island to protect the natural environment and at the same time be productive and useful. Exhibited were: solar hot water heaters, kind-to-the-environment cleaning products, biological garden additives and fertilizers, ingenious ways to irrigate and more.

Locally produced products like seeds, plants, honey, homemade jams, juices, chutneys, healthy drinks and food were for sale. Environmental groups like the STCB, ECHO/Salba Nos Lora and Stinapa Junior Rangers were there to show what they're doing. Special activities like drawing and painting were very popular with the kids. It was both educational and fun. ■ *L.D.*



Cool natural fruit juices, including tamarind, were available



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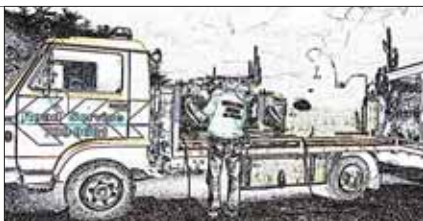
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7, McAfee anti virus. Wireless. 245. Call  
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**Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides**

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
	00:24	10:12			<b>New Moon</b>	6:16	19:04
<b>Mon 08</b>	0.86 ft	-0.16 ft					
	01:00	10:44				6:17	19:04
<b>Tue 09</b>	0.81 ft	-0.16 ft					
	01:38	11:07				6:17	19:05
<b>Wed 10</b>	0.76 ft	-0.14 ft					
	02:19	11:25	18:41	20:57		6:17	19:05
<b>Thu 11</b>	0.69 ft	-0.13 ft	0.35 ft	0.34 ft			
	03:01	11:38	18:12	23:08		6:17	19:05
<b>Fri 12</b>	0.62 ft	-0.11 ft	0.43 ft	0.33 ft			
	03:47	11:51	18:19			6:18	19:05
<b>Sat 13</b>	0.54 ft	-0.10 ft	0.54 ft				
		00:35	04:35	12:07	18:38	6:18	19:04
<b>Sun 14</b>		0.27 ft	0.45 ft	-0.10 ft	0.67 ft		
	<b>First Quarter</b>	01:46	05:26	12:26	19:05	6:18	19:04
<b>Mon 15</b>		0.20 ft	0.36 ft	-0.11 ft	0.80 ft		
		02:47	06:19	12:52	19:39	6:18	19:04
<b>Tue 16</b>		0.11 ft	0.28 ft	-0.13 ft	0.93 ft		
		03:43	07:14	13:23	20:18	6:19	19:04
<b>Wed 17</b>		0.03 ft	0.21 ft	-0.15 ft	1.03 ft		
		04:38	08:12	14:00	21:02	6:19	19:04
<b>Thu 18</b>		-0.04 ft	0.15 ft	-0.15 ft	1.11 ft		
		05:31	09:15	14:42	21:48	6:19	19:04
<b>Fri 19</b>		-0.10 ft	0.11 ft	-0.14 ft	1.15 ft		
		06:25	10:24	15:31	22:38	6:19	19:04
<b>Sat 20</b>		-0.15 ft	0.10 ft	-0.10 ft	1.15 ft		
		07:17	11:41	16:28	23:31	6:20	19:04
<b>Sun 21</b>		-0.19 ft	0.12 ft	-0.04 ft	1.11 ft		
		08:08	13:01	17:39	<b>Full Moon</b>	6:20	19:03
<b>Mon 22</b>		-0.22 ft	0.18 ft	0.04 ft			

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**Sudoku Puzzle**

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

**Sudoku Solution**

ε	ς	ε	γ	α	θ	ι	8	
γ	ι	θ	8	ε	α	α	ς	α
α	8	α	θ	ς	ι	γ	ε	ε
8	ε	ε	ι	γ	θ	ς	α	α
α	θ	α	ε	8	ς	ι	γ	ε
ς	γ	ι	ε	α	α	ε	8	θ
ι	α	γ	α	ε	8	ε	θ	ς
θ	α	ς	α	ι	ε	8	ε	γ
ε	ε	8	ς	θ	γ	α	α	ι

# 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 **Auto City 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

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## BEAUTY PARLOR

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## 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.

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## 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 lifestyle shop featuring good taste gifts, apparel, shoes, accessories and home décor

## SECURITY

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## STORAGE

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## 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 Cultimara location. Featuring a complete selection including liquors, 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)

# More Than Ever The Food Pantry Fulfills A Need

When I arrive for the interview at the Sports Hal in Antrio, the place is already packed with people. Elderly ladies, single older men, young mothers with children. Every age, nationality and walk of life is represented. People are waiting patiently with an empty shopping bag in their hand. Some little kids are running around, screaming and playing. The atmosphere is not one of despondency and helplessness, because people are at ease and they have their dignity, but I do feel sad and angry that such an aid program has become a necessity on Bonaire.

**Annette Parris, director of ADRA Bonaire – the Bonairean department of the Adventist Development & Relief Agency,** is busy providing everyone with a food package. Assisted by two male volunteers the operation is running smoothly and no one has to wait very long.

People have to show their sedula, Annette checks the names on a list and then the men go and get the food package from the storage. "Every month we hand out 200 food parcels," Annette says. "The parcels contain 25 basic products like rice, flour, cooking oil, sugar, beans, milk powder, washing powder, stuff like that."

'Food Pantry' started on Bonaire at the end of 2009. AMFO had given us a big budget and the whole operation was meant to be running for one year. That year we handed out 250 food parcels, not because there were more needy people, but because we had more money. 'Food Pantry' is an initiative of ADRA, and we are active in more than 120 countries where we focus on development aid. We are one of five partners of the World Food Program of the UN, and together with the Red Cross we also work on emergency relief. We like to work together with other networks and on Bonaire we're connected with about 10 different authorities such as Youth and Family, Fundashon Cas Bonairiano, Integrated Community Development, Villa Antonia, EOZ, SGB, Cocari and all the different churches. Since 2013 – this year – we are subsidized by the poverty policy of the Public Body (Island Government).

We don't get any money from ADRA International because from their point of view Bonaire is not a developing country because we are covered by the Netherlands.

The 'Food Pantry' is not the only project ADRA is running on Bonaire because at Kaya Pos di Amor # 1, across from More for Less supermarket, we have a container, a bookstore and a secondhand store,



*Annette Parris, Raul Gomez (Management Society and Care) who is doing a tremendous job for the Latinos who are living below the poverty line and Ingrid Sealy from Youth and Family.*

*Inset: ADRA's thrift shop and storage at Kaya Pos di Amor # 1*

'Bodega di ADRA,' where we sell clothing, furniture and all kinds of used items for next to nothing, pennies really! People can also bring their clothing and anything else they don't want anymore, or we can pick it up if that's more convenient.

We're open every Sunday from 10 am to 1 pm, and during the week from 2-5pm. If you want to contact us please call 717-4126 or 717-2377 or 787-2680. The Bonaire Animal Shelter is doing it for the animals- a wonderful initiative by the way – and we are doing it for the people.

ADRA also organizes courses like job coaching, family therapy, budgeting, labor rights and obligations, and last year I had a course, 'Preparing Vegetarian Meals,' which was attended by more than 60 people! It was a huge success, but, yeah, a pack of tofu costs a couple of dollars and it's enough to feed an entire family! This year I'm planning to set up a fitness program – I did weight coaching – and I'm thinking about musical classes, voice training.

Well, let's go back to the 'Food Pantry.' ADRA takes each case seriously, everybody who comes here will be written in and once that person has been checked by us or other authorities he or she will be eligible for a food parcel. I always have 10 packages put aside in case of an emergency, like for someone who just lost his job, his house, a mother with children who suddenly ends up alone or for someone who just got out of jail. Luckily we also see people whose situation improves, because they found a job and then they don't come here

anymore and we can help someone else.

Before I came to Bonaire a year ago, I had been living on Aruba for 11 years where I was working in special secondary education. On Bonaire life is one and a half times more expensive than on Aruba and I feel that wages and government allowances need to be adjusted so people can have a quality of life. **The AOV – the old people's pension - is \$555 per month, minimum wage is \$800 per month and an unemployment or disability allowance varies from \$200-\$300 a month.** As of July 1st these wages and allowances (which were already higher) have gone up in Hol-

land; they've been adjusted. Not on Bonaire though. Structurally and substantially something is wrong!

In the meantime – although the Public Body (Island Government) is supporting us – we still could use some help from supermarkets and wholesale companies which might have products which are reaching the expiration date. We could use them! This month! Also, there is another food bank working on the island and I hope that we can work together in the future, because together you can accomplish so much more. (Stichting Voedselbank Bonaire—see Bonaire Reporter stories Feb. 22-Mar.8, 2013, June 24-July 8, 2013.)

It's been a real challenge for me since the project with AMFO ended to put this program on a new track. You know, in this culture the children used to take care of their parents when they grew old; they would cook for them, take them in with them, but these days the elderly (50% of our clientele is 55+) tell me, 'You know, my children have their own family, their own life,' and so everyone is left to his or her own fate... and you're not only coping with an economic problem but also with a social problem. I find that terribly sad.

I feel the time has come where together we should take care of each other and be open minded to that idea. And especially in such a small community as Bonaire we should be able to make it happen. All my life I've been a positive person otherwise I couldn't do this! You have to put your love into it!" ■ *Story & photo by Greta Kooistra*



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Bulevar Gob. N. Debrot 74 (Across from Sand Dollar)  
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Bonaire Reporter- July 8-22, 2013

## KIDS WEEK



### SPORTS AND GAMES IN / ON (AND AROUND) THE WATER

Do you love nature, adventure and water, you are like a fish in the water, do you love challenges and you are not afraid, and between 8 and 15 years? Then this is the activity for you! Together with your friends you can now explore. You learn together various water sports and this week is full of actions.



#### WHAT ARE YOU GONE DO?

Learn to sail (5pers in a boat), Wakeboarding, Beach Games Beachvolleybal, Snorkelling, Water skiing, catamaran sailing, Swimming, Water Play, End Bbq on Klein Bonaire.



**WHEN?** The whole holiday period each week, Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, only participate for 2 or 3 days is also possible.

**WHERE?** Kas di regatta, kaya Herman J. Pop, Kralendijk.

**FOR WHO?** Are you between 8 t / m 15 years? and you can swim well.

**REGISTRATION:** Via e-mail: [sailingpointbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:sailingpointbonaire@gmail.com)

#### COSTS FOR A WHOLEWEEK ?

\$ 350,- pp. 5x including lunch, drinks, snacks. Do you live on Bonaire \$ 300 (sedula)

#### WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING ?

Swimming gear, swim shirt, sunscreen, water shoes, dry clothes, sunglasses (with cord), cap and snorkelling gear.

# Guest Editorial

## Tene Boneiru Limpi

Fifteen years ago we stood at the Bonaire immigration desk with a check for NAF 1500 and a certificate of good behavior from the Netherlands. Those were the conditions for admission to Bonaire. The check was intended as a deposit that could be used to put us on an airplane if we misbehaved on the island. The certificate of good behavior, well yes, that served to minimize the odds of that event happening. I blinked my eyes but did what was asked. Really not such a bad idea to prevent shady characters and people with a suspicious past from coming to this island. And besides, the lieutenant governor at the time was **Frits**

**Goedgedrag** (transl: Frits Good Conduct), a man who lived up to his last name and who is a living example of integrity itself. This justified the strict immigration requirements.

Welcoming folders at the airport, garbage trucks and bins of SELIBON all manifested a solid campaign: *Tene Boneiru Limpi* (Keep Bonaire Clean) No tossed about trash, everything neatly in the bin.

Sympathetic, eco friendly and smart not to annoy incoming tourists with tossed around litter. The motto was: Bonaire will be clean!

A few years after our arrival we were allowed to participate in the local island elections. A solid campaign was being waged by Red and Green parties. In the newspapers we read sharp and mutual accusations of corruption and juicy gossip about the reputation of the candidates. And cars with party banners and flags drove up and down in the streets, sponsored by party funds with free beer and gas coupons. "They are buying votes," it was said.

This was the first time that I heard: Is this man clean? Has this man favored his family? Has the man abused his powers? Is he or she corrupt?

Friends who were longer on the island told me to stop whining about this. This is the way things go in the Caribbean, you favor your family and if at all possible you give them a job as they all do that, just like all cyclists took epo. And arrange something, like a piece of land or a building permit. Come on, my friend, don't be so difficult.

Our present lieutenant governor, Mrs. Emerencia, decided a few months ago to indeed be difficult. She discovered irregularities in the assigning of taxi permits. Apparently she did not have the power and persuasion to solve the suspicions in the heart of the Island Council and reported it at the OM (public prosecutor). The OM investigated and found that Mr. James Kroon, the commissioner who also wanted to ship our donkeys to Haiti, was guilty of fraud and forgery and dismissed the case with a probationary period of three years.

An unsatisfactory judgment that left a lot of questions. Did Mr. Kroon really do something wrong? The court did not render a judgment so the questions remain. One party says, "Kroon must go," and the other, "No way, because the court has not spoken." The OM confirmed the suspicions of Mrs. Emerencia and should actually bring the case before the court. We have not heard anything about this. On the contrary, she has handed over her power to monitor good governance to a commissioner and the relationship between her



and the commissioners has been damaged. What a collective disaster.

The matter Kroon does not stand alone. Also in the Zambesi matter there are lingering doubts, without clarity. And what about the Jeffrey Levenstone matter?

Should the course of this sordid matter be blamed on the OM?

What's so sad about all this is that apparently our island is unable to clean up its own corps of administrators. What fumbling in these matters. And who are the victims?

First of all, those directly involved in the case. Many losers, few winners. And besides these, we, the population, all of us. The image of Bonaire is often contaminated by whole and half truths of corruption, nepotism, and shoddy governance. No one is happy about this.

Although? It would not surprise me if this situation also attracts people that find in Bonaire a safe get away: tax evaders, people with considerable claims or real estate cowboys with dirty money. There, on Bonaire they don't mind norms and values too much anyway. And perhaps some small local corrupters may think, "If they do it, why not us too?"

I think it is high time for a big spring clean. Under pressure, the governor had to hand over her mandate for good governance to an island commissioner.

I baptize that action: *Hasi i Tene Boneiru Limpi* (Make and Keep Bonare Clean). The road trash has been mostly cleaned up and now it is the turn of our administrators and stained population.

Do you want concrete suggestions?

A committee, established by citizens, for Truth, Repentance and Reconciliation, to be led by Frits Goedgedrag. Sinners can voluntarily repent and restart their lives on Bonaire with a clean slate after a public confession. In addition, a zero tolerance policy to be adopted towards all shady administrators: one corrupt action and you are out of government for life. And finally a thorough screening by our immigration officials of immigrants and those moving here from the Netherlands.

Small suspicions? Additional research!

And I have a suggestion for financing this project: All NAF 1500 deposits will not be returned to the immigrants but given by our government to the battle fund of the foundation: *Hasi i Tene Boneiru Limpi*.

Make and keep Bonaire clean. It's long overdue! ■ **Guus Gerritsen**



## DID YOU KNOW?



Dark Spot Disease on a star coral



White Plague Disease on a star coral

Corals living in the Caribbean have 66% of the world's coral diseases, even though only 8% of the world's corals are found in this region. Coral diseases are infectious, meaning that they result from agents such as bacteria, viruses or fungi. However, these diseases are not always contagious (able to be passed directly or indirectly from one coral to another). Some of the diseases that affect corals in the Caribbean are white plague (characterized by large white splotches on coral), dark spot (characterized by dark spots on the coral colony), and yellow band disease (characterized by a yellow band of tissue surrounding dead patches on the coral). These diseases usually lead to the death of the coral colony.

Scientists recently looked at the distribution of these three diseases on Caribbean reefs to determine if the infectious diseases were contagious. They found that the diseases were not clustered in the same area, indicating that the diseases were not being spread between corals. Instead, the diseases were wide spread over the study area, sometimes over a kilometer apart. The researchers concluded that under natural conditions, diseases were not transmissible, and only when corals were weakened due to environmental conditions (such as changes in temperature, salinity, etc.) were they vulnerable to infection. In other words, diseases are not being spread from coral to coral or through a vector (such as a fish, shrimp, crab, etc.) to coral. Corals are only affected by the diseases, which are present in the seawater, when they are stressed (and weakened) due to environmental conditions. ■ *Madeline Roth*



*Roth is an Anthropology and Biology major at St. Mary's College of Maryland. She is studying on Bonaire for the spring semester at the CIEE Research Station.*

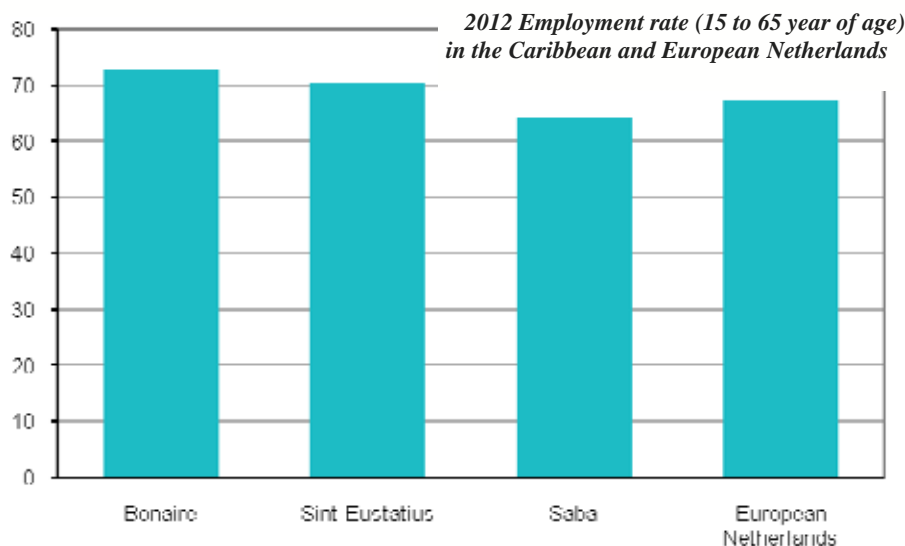
## Working Bonaire

The Central Bureau of Statistics released details of the recently completed Labor Market Survey. Some highlights included the fact that **about seven out of 10 inhabitants of the Caribbean Netherlands are working and unemployment is lower than in the European Netherlands.**

The proportion of working people in the Caribbean Netherlands in 2012 ranged from nearly 73% on Bonaire to about 64% on Saba. The unemployment rate in the Caribbean Netherlands was slightly lower than in the European Netherlands.

### Bonaire had over 8,600 people employed.

Nearly 11,800 persons from 15 to 65 lived on Bonaire in 2012; 2,800 on St. Eustatius and 1,500 on Saba. On Bonaire 8,600 worked for 12 hours or more per week. On St. Eustatius this was 1,900 and almost 1,000 on Saba. With this the employment rate amounted to respectively 72.6%, 70.3% and 64.3%. This is according to the latest figures from the Labor Force Survey Caribbean Netherlands. *Press release*



Source: CBS



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS

**Saturday, July 27—“Walk to Talk” Fundraiser.** 6 am-10 am. Starts at Bon Bida Spa, to Mentor, Kralendijk, Bon Bida. \$10 includes towel & drinks. More on page 2.

**Kids Camps—** July and August— Sailing, Tennis and Music Camps.

**July 22-26- AC Milan soccer training camp.** Antonio Trinidad Stadium, Rincon 9 am-3 pm M-F Fee-\$375. Info: Phone 796-3525, [www.milanjuniorecamp.com](http://www.milanjuniorecamp.com)

**Sunday, July 28—Mountain Bike Fun Race,** 8 am, Lagoen-Landfill area, sponsored by De Freewieler. More on page 10



G.Kooistra photo

**Headliner Andreina Marcano is ready for the Jazz Festival**

## Augusts 2, 3, 4 -BONAIRE JAZZ FESTIVAL—

Don't forget Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival 2013 is coming up on August 2, 3 and 4. The opening will be at Fort Oranje by world class acts like our own **Andreina Marcano Jazz Ensemble** and **Levi Silvanie** with world pop jazz in English and Papiamentu. Great acts like 'Holland's best singer,' **Trijntje Oosterhuis**, **Venezuelan Salsa Band**, **Los Adolescentes**, and Slovenian jazz singer, **Nina Strnad** will perform at the Plaza.

For more info [www.bonairejazzfestival.com](http://www.bonairejazzfestival.com) or [facebook.com/bonairejazz](https://www.facebook.com/bonairejazz) and for tickets mail [info@bonairejazz.com](mailto:info@bonairejazz.com)

**Wounded Warriors** week, August 17-24. More info in upcoming editions.

## REGULAR EVENTS

• **Bonaire Ayurvedic Vegetarian Kitchen**, open Tuesday through Friday, 12 noon to 1:30 pm, Go Green at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona #47. Call for reservations 700-5488

• **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** - closed due to lack of financing.

### Saturdays

• **Last Saturday of the month** – donate foods and household items to Food Bank (*Stichting voedselbank Bonaire*) from 10 am-4 pm, in front of Van den Tweel Supermarket

• **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 1 pm.

• **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 on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road weekdays. 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. +5999-560-7539.*) 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

**Divemaster's Night at Bistro de Paris Restaurant** at Harbour Village Marina. Free house rum when you buy a coke.

**30-minute Meditation at Yoga Bonaire**, 12 noon, Bonaire Basics. Donation. 786-6416 or [info@bonaireyoga.com](mailto:info@bonaireyoga.com)

### Fridays

**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 -- Will resume in November-** 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: 786-4931

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

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

**Darts Club** plays **every other Sunday** at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

**Lions Club** meets every **2nd and 4th 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](mailto:Marytjin@gmail.com) or [Daisycoffie@hotmail.com](mailto:Daisycoffie@hotmail.com)

**International Bible Church**, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. De-brot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. Tuesday 7:30 pm-Adult Bible study class. 717-8377 for more info or ride [bonaireibc@yahoo.com](mailto:bonaireibc@yahoo.com)

**Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk** – Services, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu, 717-8304.

*Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol*, Saturday at 6 pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

**Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios):** Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am. Wed. Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194

**Ministerio di Kristu Hesus Services** Sunday mornings at 10 am at Jong Bonaire Youth Center in English, Dutch and Papiamentu. Preaching the full gospel. Contact: 786-2557.

**Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church** located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, Republiek. Services are held Sunday mornings 10am-11:30am. Bible studies in English on Monday nights from 7-8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:** Kaya Sabana #26, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Services (Translation to English and Papiamentu upon request) 10:20am- Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors welcome: Information: Call 701-9522 .

**Foundation Fountain of Living Waters, Centro Fuente**, Service Sunday at Kaya Aruaco 4 at 6 pm, in Papiamentu and Spanish. For Marriage Counseling, contact 717-2161.

**Iglesia di Cristo (Church of Christ)** Sunday: 10:30 am & 7:00 pm; Wednesday: 7:00 pm. Services in Papiamentu (English also if needed) Address: Kaya Msgr. Nieuwindt 25 (same street as Dr. Dorvil) Cell: 796-0721

**Call The Reporter at 786-6518 if you have something HAPPENING**

## Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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# Pets of the Week



We Want You!

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)



At a past Beroepenmarkt these girls were considering the Coast Guard

►The 10th edition of the **Study and Career Fair. Bonaire**, will take place on **Friday, November 15**, organized by Fundashon Ban Boneiru Bèk. Exhibitors should begin to prepare for the event. This year's motto is "Studiante Awe, Profeshonal Manan!" (Student Today, Professional Tomorrow)

Experts believe it is essential to give Bonaire's young people an overview of a variety

of study and work opportunities to allow them to better plan their future.

Businesses wanting to participate should contact the Study and Career Fair 2013: Lilian Paula-Crestian at email: [sbmbo-naire@gmail.com](mailto:sbmbo-naire@gmail.com) or via Fundashon Ban Boneiru Bek: [www.banboneirubek.com](http://www.banboneirubek.com)

Last year there was a large turnout of participants. Flamingo Communications plans to publish a magazine with related articles and interviews. If you are interested in placing an ad in this magazine, please send an email to [sbmbo-naire@gmail.com](mailto:sbmbo-naire@gmail.com).

►Persons who have gotten tickets from the police for traffic violations, not paying motor vehicle tax or driving uninsured can avoid a hearing in court by paying up before the court date. In past years it was common for individuals to ignore the fines, but not any more. In a press release, the Public Prosecutor's office for the Caribbean Netherlands explained that the persons involved must pay the amount on the ticket (summons) at the local Tax Office in a timely fashion.

"Timely means at least seven days before the hearing date. Thereafter, payments will

## DOUBLE TROUBLE

**A**lexis and Andrea are twins born at the Bonaire Animal Shelter in February. Their mother, Anna, gave birth less than 24 hours after being left at the Shelter. Anna went on to be known as "Mother of the Year" by nursing five additional abandoned kittens besides her own four! She did a great job as Alexis and Andrea have blossomed into a couple of real characters. Their creative play activity always brings a smile to shelter staffers and visitors, but these non-stop action figures put on the brakes the moment a human appears on the scene. Human means cuddle time! Their favorite trick while being held is to nuzzle a nose into each of your ears so they are sure you hear how loudly they can purr!

The girls will grow to be long and lean and have soft grey-striped fur with pure white markings. They are affectionate and loving with humans since they were constantly handled within minutes of their birth and throughout their young lives. The twins are a perfect kitten pair for anyone who wants affectionate companion cats but is not at home during the day to cultivate the bond. Andrea and Alexis will happily entertain themselves during the day without being bored or destructive, but will be affectionate and more than attentive feline companions when their human(s) arrive home.

You can visit Alexis and Andrea and all other shelter residents at the Bonaire Animal Shelter from Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. All Shelter animals up for adoption are healthy with current vaccinations and sterilization included in the adoption fee. ■ *Jane Madden Disko*

## Shelter News

►Thinking about enriching your life with a pet? One who loves seeing you return home and who accepts you, no matter what?

**Right now at the Shelter there is an abundance of choice.** Cats, dogs...puppies, kittens, more mature animals, big, little, long haired, short haired, peppy, athletic, calm, tranquil, beautiful, winsome, funny looking. And there are even some "special needs" animals. It's a full house, and it's a "chooser's market." So drop in and see for yourself and enjoy that marvelous atmosphere provided by the superb Shelter staff and their four-legged friends.

►The Shelter's annual **ART AUCTION will be in December**, so if you are an artist and would like to contribute some of your work it will be very welcome! The Auction is one of the best fund raisers to help keep the Bonaire Animal Shelter not only open for unwanted cats and dogs but also serves as an education source to inform all ages about animals and their importance in our lives. You don't have to be an artist—you may donate a service, an entertainment, the sky's the limit. For more information call the Shelter at 717-4989. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*

not be accepted by the Tax Office and your case will then be submitted automatically to the judge, who generally imposes a higher penalty."

►If you have to go to court the fines imposed by the judge are higher usually and can be collected at the airports (by the Royal Marechaussee) if not paid. As of July 1, 2013, the additional amount for not paying the motor vehicle tax on time has increased from \$85 to \$150. By increasing the fee, the Public Prosecutor's Office hopes to reduce the number of violations.

►Beginning September 1, 2013, the police will be checking for up-to-date stickers on license plates. Renew if you haven't already.

►Minister of Economic Affairs, Henk Kamp, will extend the postal concession of the present postal company, New Post Netherlands Antilles (NPNA), through the end of the year. Its services include the transportation of letters up to 2000 grams, the placing of mailboxes and post office boxes and the issuing of postage stamps.

**However, next year's concession is out for bid.** There have been criticisms of New Post's operation. By 31 December 2013 the postal concession will be granted again. A consequence may be that the postal concession is transferred to a new party. ■ *G./L.D.*

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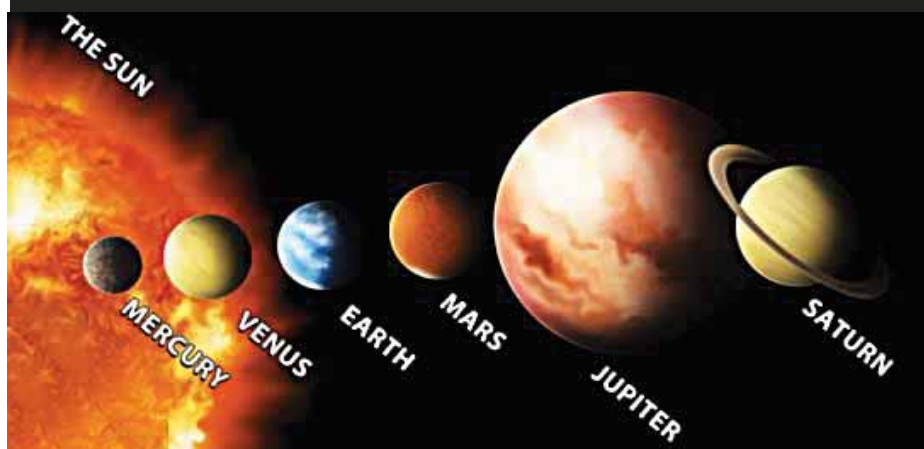
Kaya Grandi 32B, down a bit in the alley in  
between Best Pearls and Gio's Ice Parlor  
Phone: 717-9181



# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

## PLANET MONTH



**E**arth reached its **aphelion**, its annual farthest point from the Sun, on the 5th. It always seems counterintuitive that the Earth is farthest from the Sun in summer. But we all know that it is the planet's tilt, not its solar distance that determines season.

### Five naked-eye planets are visible in July

**Jupiter** is still just about visible at twilight at the beginning of the month. It shines at magnitude -1.8, but is lost against the setting Sun by mid-month, after which it will re-emerge into the pre-dawn sky towards the end of July.

**Saturn** is in **Virgo** and crosses the south as darkness falls. It is near the first-magnitude star **Spica**, but appears more yellow in color. Its angular diameter decreases from 18.5 to 17.8" over the month as it moves away from us. Saturn's rings are now at 17 degrees to the line of sight, allowing the largest gap between the rings, **Cassini's Division**, and the planet's largest moon, **Titan**, to be seen using a small telescope. Saturn's maximum elevation each night is now quite low, and will continue to decrease over the coming years.

**Mercury** forms the top of a line with Venus and Jupiter on the 1st. It has a magnitude of -0.4, and reaches greatest eastern elongation (its furthest easterly point from the Sun in the sky) on the 12th. It is best seen at that time, being 24 degrees from the Sun, and can be most easily viewed around 30 minutes after sunset. A telescope will show its slightly gibbous disc, 8" across. Mercury is 2.1 degrees from **Venus** on the 18th, moving below it to 1.9 degrees' separation the following night. You may need

binoculars to locate Mercury at this time, so be sure to use them only after the Sun has gone down.

**Mars** reached **superior conjunction** (passing behind the Sun) on the 18th of April, and this month appears in the eastern sky before dawn. It rises about 30 minutes before the Sun on the 1st. It is difficult to spot at magnitude +1.4, but this becomes easier by the end of the month, when it is 7 degrees above the horizon shortly before dawn.

**Venus** is about 8 degrees above the western horizon 30 minutes after sunset at the beginning of the month. It does not get very high in the sky, reaching 10 degrees' elevation around the 20th-25th. Its disc, 10" across, is 96% illuminated at the start of June as it is on the far side of the Sun, shining at magnitude -3.8. By the end of the month, it is still 91% illuminated.

### Other July Highlights

Discover an asteroid for yourself. The **asteroid Ceres** can be found between the **5th and 7th**, when it passes within 1 degree of the star **Pollux**, in **Gemini**. Look towards the west about an hour after sunset using binoculars to spot the asteroid at magnitude +8.8, but don't mistake it for a star of magnitude +8.4 nearby.

Mercury, Venus and a thin crescent Moon congregate on the **10th**, visible shortly after sunset if you have a low western horizon. You may also spot **Earthshine** - sunlight reflected from the Earth and reflected again from the dark part of the Moon.

A gibbous Moon appears very close to **Spica**, in **Virgo**, on the **18th**, with Saturn not far away. ■ *Jeff DeTray*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

July 2013

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) You may be able to get some good advice about your personal problems. Don't give in too quickly. You are exceptional at presenting your ideas. Don't overspend on luxury items. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) Your self esteem will come back if you take part in organizational functions that allow you to be in the lime light. Make changes to your home that will be pleasing to everyone involved. Opportunities for new and exciting relationships will be yours if you get out and join groups. Avoid any confrontations with colleagues. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Your charm will be captivating. Your ability to work with detail could help you achieve your goals. Too many opportunities and too many changes going on. Try to be honest when dealing with your mate. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Your charisma will no doubt attract a lot of attention. You'll be tempted to spend extravagantly this month. You will benefit by taking care of other people's concerns. Do not travel unless absolutely necessary. Be careful. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Pleasure trips will be favorable and bring about romance. You'll need to exercise control. Listen to a good friend who is truly looking out for your best interests. Some of that extra energy you have stored up might just be put to good use. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You can make money if you pursue your own business. You should consider submitting some of your written work for publication. Don't make promises you can't keep. Losses are likely if you aren't careful where you leave your valuables. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Your outgoing, aggressive nature will attract someone you've been eager to meet. Trying to deal with your mate will be unproductive

and possibly hurtful. You can make some money if you get involved in a conservative financial prospect that is presented to you. Go over their important documents and take the time to suggest alternatives. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You need to spend some time getting to know this person all over again. Think before you act. Unforeseen circumstances will disrupt your daily routine. You can make favorable changes in your home environment. Stay mellow. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Keep calm. Someone around you is bouncing off the walls. Don't even bother trying to get their approval on the things you want to do. Your business sense will be leading you in a direction that indicates more travel and communication. Your intellectual charm will win hearts and bring opportunities that you least expect. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Sudden changes will occur through communications with friends or in-laws. You will meet exciting new people through interest groups or functions that you attend with your children. Romance will be yours if you get out and do things in large groups. If you're feeling uncertain, spend some time alone and reevaluate your motives as well as your needs. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Your desire for excitement and adventure may be expensive. It's hard to stay mad if the object of the anger refuses to react. Travel will promote new romantic encounters and additional cultural knowledge. You can get a promotion if you put in a little extra detail. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Insincere gestures of friendliness are likely to occur. Erratic behavior at home may be hard to handle. You mustn't take on other people's responsibilities or you may find yourself irritable and exhausted. You have two choices; Get out on your own, or bend to your mate's whims. Your luckiest events will occur on a Wednesday. ■

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**Asking price US\$288,000**

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# INTRODUCTION OF THE HYBRID

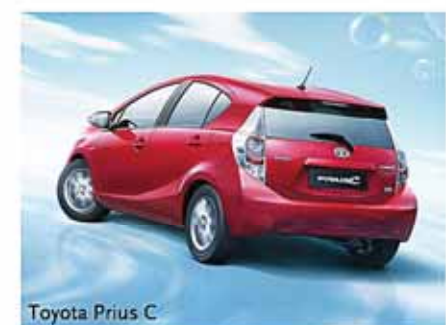


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