

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE December 16- 30, 2013; Year 20, Issue 24
The REPORTER
BES Island News Too



P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 786-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com Since 1994



Splash Pop Choir at Kriabon Christmas Market

Back row,(LtoR): Dara, Selena, Sofia, Noa, Sanne, Laura. Front: Gabriella and Nicol. See page 12

**SUP For
Bonaire Kids
Page 11**

**The Great
Donkey
Roundup
Page 12**

**Shelter
Art Auction
Page 15**

Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER



The purchasing power of consumers in the Caribbean Netherlands deteriorated dramatically after 2010. Experts consider the increase in the tax burden as the main cause (25.7% in 2010 to more than 32.6 % in 2011. See ECORYS report purchasing power research CN May 23, 2012 bldz. 116). This in addition to other factors such as the introduction of the dollar and a lack of competition - which played a smaller role.

The main cause of the "not inconsiderable problem of poverty" does not appear to be getting resolved.

► **Recently members of the Caribbean Nederland Customs Service carried out a series of drug interceptions.** A total of 641 grams of cocaine were confiscated on Bonaire with a total street value of \$27,600.

November 9, 2013, members of Physical Supervision Team (*Team Fysiek Toezicht*) intercepted 335 grams of cocaine. The cocaine was found on a 24-year-old female passenger on an airline to The Netherlands. Upon further inspection it was revealed that the woman had concealed the cocaine internally.

On November 27, 2013, members of Physical Supervision Team intercepted 306 grams of cocaine found on a female passenger of 23 years on an airline to Curaçao. Upon further investigation it showed the woman had also concealed the cocaine internally. Customs always remains alert for attempts at smuggling illegal products in or out of the Dutch Caribbean.

► On Wednesday, December 11, at noon, reaching the **highest point of the expansion and renovation of the Bon-**



RCN photo

aire police station was commemorated by **Hildegard Buitink** the Chief of Police, **Fleur Lagcher** (interim director RGD) and **Willy Mennen** (*Cdt Brigade Caribisch Gebied* KMAR) hoisting flags at the front of the structure. In a short speech, the Chief thanked amongst others, the contractor, subcontractors and construction workers. The expectation is that the remodeled police station will be operational in 2014.

► Last week a Bonaire court decided that the criminal case against the Bonaire UPB politician **Ramonsito Booi** and his colleague and former minister **Burney El Hage** will continue but they will not be charged for corruption.

The Zambezi corruption case was reduced to a criminal case on forgery and money laundering relating to mortgages. Defense attorney Knoop held that the entire Zambezi investigation was illegal and the court agreed with him. The six-case Zambezi investigation began in 2009 with a raid on the homes of the two politicians and others.

► **Princess Amalia is the next in line for the Dutch throne** if King Willem-Alexander dies. If his death is before 2021 Queen Maxima will be regent. In a joint meeting, the First and Second Chambers of



the Dutch Parliament unanimously adopted three draft laws to this effect last week.

Crown Princess Amalia was 10 years old last Saturday and will remain in the Queen's parental care until she turns 18. As regent, the Queen will be assisted by a five-member Supervisory Council. Two members are to be appointed by the royal family. The other members are the Vice-President of the Council of State, the President of the General Audit Chamber and the President of the High Court of the Netherlands. The King's brother, **Prince Constantijn**, is next in line after Queen Máxima to become regent of the Kingdom.

► **A majority of the island of Bonaire has agreed to an extension of the tenure of deputies Silvana Janga-Serfilia and Burney El Hage until January 17, 2014.** Both had resigned last month.

Governor Emerencia who also submitted her resignation following a no-confidence vote by the Council earlier this month, will leave office on **March 1, 2014.**

► **THE HAGUE--**The Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament adopted a motion of the Democratic Party D66 and Christian Union on Tuesday to create **more transparency in the appointment procedure of the National Government Representative for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.** Two members of Parliament also called for a review of the appointment procedure before May 2014, when the current National Government Representative (*Rijkswetervoorwoordiger*) Wilbert Stolte resigns.

According to the petitioners, Stolte's appointment appeared to have taken place behind closed doors.

► **Five persons in the BES Islands handed in their firearms during the amnesty campaign last month. However, the Island Governors, Prosecutor's Office and the Police still said they were satisfied.**

Residents of the three islands could have handed in their weapons voluntarily between November 6 and 13. Two persons in Saba, two in Bonaire and one person in Statia handed over weapons to the police stations.

The police campaign was aimed at decreasing the number of illegal weapons and ammunition in circulation, to increase safety on the islands and to inform citizens about the regulations in force. A new, integral firearm policy for Bonaire, Statia and Saba will be introduced

(Continued on page 3)

This Week's Stories

Shark Problem Solved	3
Cleaning Up The Boka	5
Another Sustainable market Success	7
United Airlines New Schedule	8
Letters:-Chamber Thanks, Workers Concerned	9
Busy Cruise Season	9
STINAPA Bird Guide	9
Nature's Discount	10
Noordam Crew Cleans Up	10
Monthly Goat Cheese Recipe	10
SUP (stand up paddleboards) For Bonaire Kids	11
The Great Donkey Roundup	12
Remodeled TCB Office Opens	13
Bondigro: The Mouse That Roared	13
Musical Christmas Market	14
Shelter Art Auction	15
Mystery Flight, Fiery End	17
MCB Award Night	17
For A Cleaner Bonaire	20
The Pet Project	22
Departments	
Flotsam & Jetsam	2
On the Island Since- Leonardo R. van Goens	4
Word On The Street	7
Picture Yourself- Suriname	14
Sudoku, Sudoku Answer	16
Classifieds	16
Tide Table, Sunrise & Sunset	
Times, Moon Phase	16
Shopping & Dining Guides	18
Bonaire Sky Park -Planets at Winter Solstice	19
The Stars Have It (Astrology)	19
Masthead	20
Did You Know- Eyespots on Damselfish	20
What's Happening, Cruise Ships	21
Pet of the Week (Jenna)	22
Holiday Greetings	23

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Available on-line at:

www.bonairereporter.com

Printed Every Fortnight,

On-line every day, 24/7

Next edition printing on

Sunday, December 29, 2013

Story and Ad deadline:

Friday, December 27, 2013

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) on January 1, 2014.

► **It was a hurricane season almost without hurricanes.** There were just two, Humberto and Ingrid, and both were relatively wimpy, Category 1 storms. That made the 2013 Atlantic hurricane season, which ended Saturday, the least active in more than 30 years — for reasons that remain puzzling.

The season, from June through November, has an average of 12 tropical storms, of which six to seven grow to hurricane strength with sustained winds of 74 mph or greater. Typically, two storms become “major” hurricanes, Category 3 or stronger, with sustained winds of at least 111 mph.

► **Beginning in 2014 Bonaire, St. Eustatius, Saba, Curaçao, Aruba and St. Maarten can make use of European nature and environment funds.** This is possible through the LIFE program for which the European Parliament approved almost €3.5 billion for the period 2014-2020. Dutch Euro-parliamentarian Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy fought hard for it in the Euro-Parliament and is pleased it went through. “Formerly the overseas municipalities were excluded but that is no longer the case. The islands are biodiversity hotspots with spectacular nature and beautiful coral reefs. It’s important to protect them not only because of the nature but also for the local population. The many tourists visiting the islands every year to admire this beauty are a huge source of income, according to the Euro-parliamentarian.



► RCN Director Sybren van Dam handed the new **Caribbean Netherlands Island Guide** to the World Champion of Freestyle Windsurfing Kiri Thodé last Monday. The island guide offers information on the Dutch Government, the islands and various organizations that are important to the people of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. This is the first time that all these data have been brought together in a guide that is being delivered door-to-door. The guide is part of a project by the Communication Department of the RCN.

► **Fernando Simal announced that the Latin American bat conservation (RELCOM (Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe para la Conservación de los Murciélagos) website is ready for launching.** It’s available both in English and Spanish at www.pprabc.org. Clifford de Lannoy and Paul Westerbeek are already working on



(Continued on page 8)

Shark Problem Solved

“This shark was eating all the fish,” Eddy explained, “It wasn’t like the regular sharks in that neighborhood. This one, about 3 m. long, couldn’t be discouraged. I tried to scare him away, even caught him once on a light line and let him go. Finally I prepared a heavy line and caught him.

I don’t normally fish for sharks, but this bull shark was a threat to my livelihood. I’ve been a fisherman all my life, this house was paid for by my fishing. I cleaned the shark and it went to feed people on the island who like shark. It was not wasted.”

The Reporter visited Eddy at his request so he could tell his side of the story that appeared in the last Reporter that questioned the catching of the shark and showed photos. He was courteous and friendly. Besides being the spokesman for the island’s fishermen for many years, Eddy is a respected community leader and has taught generations of Bonaire kids how to swim down at Cha Cha Beach.

“I spoke to Din, the head Marine Park Ranger. He told me that the regulations mentioned in the Reporter’s story were just draft proposals and not laws. If they become law then of course I will observe them.” ■ G.D.

Photo from last edition



Eddy Christiaan at home



ScubaVision photo



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On the Island Since... June 2011 - Leonardo R. van Goens



Leonardo van Goens at home



Leonardo with his spinach plant

“When I was eight years old I moved with my parents from Amsterdam to Curaçao. We lived at Dominguito. It didn’t take me long to become fluent in Papiamentu. I’m sure the roots of my linguistic instinct come from Papiamentu. For almost 50 years I was an English teacher on Curaçao. I was also trained to teach arithmetic and mathematics. I am proud to say that I never taught my students arithmetic; I explained to them the relationship between the numbers.

I didn’t really choose to come to live here; in fact I thought Bonaire would be too small and too limited. I wanted to go to Colombia, where I lived for two years when I was married to a Colombian lady. But... when I befriended this girl through the internet, who had been trying to come and live on Bonaire for 30 years, we started living together in Sabadeco with a beautiful view of the bay.

I worked as a school teacher at Middle Professional Education. Then I decided it was time for something new and I became a writer. My first book, a children’s book, *Peter and the Stone of Mu*, will be published by De Ring in Holland this March. I know for sure it’s going to be a big hit,” he laughs, “because that’s the idea you have to surround it with!

The way I live is esoteric. I’ve been a follower of Sai Baba (an Indian guru) for a long, long time and that’s why – I guess – I’m a bit of a loner on this island. However, I am also deeply inspired by Padre Pio and Saint Francis. All my life I’ve been looking for the essence and the values of life and I found that one of our highest priorities is ‘service’ – to help others. It works on many levels: esthetic, financial and moral. I feel that by showing people the way, all my needs were fulfilled as well.

What is important to me, is that from a very young age I’ve been troubled by sexual and material

morals and ethics. Morals are what the social community puts on you and ethics are what you feel inside, like honesty and helpfulness. In a material sense I see very few people helping others. When it comes to sexuality, I see very young girls getting pregnant by very young and arrogant boys whose further

tates the books to Vladimir Megre. One of her philosophies is that she wants to grant one hectare of land to everyone who needs it. One-fourth of the land cannot be touched and must stay in its original condition, then the people may build their house on it, plant (at least) one cedar. They have to dig

“Our approach to nature is one of the things I would like to change; we destroy, we plunder and we take - and we don’t put anything back in return.

contribution is absolutely nothing. I say: do we realize what we’re doing with our primary energy? I am not a saint, but I am very careful with that energy and the other person in my life.

I’ve learned a lot from the esoteric courses from White Lodge from Ronald Beesley as we – the group of Gerda and Sixto Wout on Curaçao - received training from Cicely and Jack Allan for 10 years. It has been a great impact on my life, because that’s how I survived my divorce and how I could parry other obstacles.” He smiles. “I am not an easy guy. I had a difficult childhood but I don’t blame anybody. You’re carrying your own karma and you have to set it straight.

After passing a long road – always looking for stepping stones – I found Findhorn, a classic New Age eco village in Northern Scotland and on their site I found *The Ringing Cedars of Russia*, a book series of Vladimir Megre, and I devoured them. It has left a deep impression on me and on millions of others. I am not promoting the books, but I do want to share the philosophy of Anastasia, the hermit in the Siberian taiga, who dic-

a big pond and the rest of the land must be planted with fruit trees and fruit bushes, all kinds of roots and vegetables and everything else people can consume. The land should be given free of taxes and it should stay in the family forever.

In the federal district of Belgorod, Russia, all this is already happening. It’s something that could be realized on Bonaire as well I think, so that people can become self-sufficient. Also, these people grow their food GMO-free and without the use of chemical fertilizers. All the biological waste is reused.

What I’ve just told you is just a fraction of the philosophies of Anastasia about living close to the earth in a village of Kin’s Domain by creating a ‘Space of Love.’ Of course there is so much more and it goes so much deeper and I would love to share this with others, so if people are interested they can go to www.ringingcedars.com or www.ringingcedarsofrussia.org or mail me rolston.odhammer@yahoo.es or phone me at 700-1377.

From the moment I became a ‘big boy,’ he grins, “I’ve lived

very consciously: no Coca Cola, no white sugar, no Mac Donald’s nor Kentucky and very little meat. I am also careful with my sexual energy and the result is that I am never sick. I am sure my lifestyle is the source of my good health and I feel the *Ringing Cedars* series is the key as how to set up my life. Of course I realize,” he smirks “I am in the last stage of my life – but it doesn’t mean that I will die tomorrow. Therefore I would like to set up my domain to live there with my love.

off my pension. To make a little extra money I’m tutoring Dutch-English, mathematics and arithmetic for students in group seven and eight. And I also do translations: Dutch-English, Dutch-Papiamentu -Dutch and Spanish-Dutch.

I’m not a spender but I do like to travel. I’ve planned three trips to Russia and so far I went once and visited the dolmens, the single-chamber megalithic tombs in Caucasia. My second trip I want to spend at least two months on one of the domains – in winter time that is. The Russian editor of the English version of the series has become a friend of mine and he told me, ‘Go in winter, only then can you decide.’ I’m lucky to have him as a friend because he’s arranging my stay. I also would like to visit Medvinka, the center for natural beekeeping and eco village, where Fedor Lazutin lives who wrote the book *Keeping Bees with a Smile*. In the past I’ve had four beehives with 40,000 bees and I can tell you they are the most peaceful and social beings in nature.

Our approach to nature is one of the things I would like to change; we destroy, we plunder and we take - and we don’t put anything back in return. We don’t love nature. We’re not connected anymore – while it could be paradise right here and now.

Well, I am not a cramped person. If I can’t make it to Russia, I’ll go to Saba, Colombia or Costa Rica. It’s a big world out there and you know... maybe I will find my love right here and we’ll live happily in Rincon.

We’re heading for a new world and why not with a positive approach and on Bonaire we could start helping each other to make a future possible for everyone. This is a unique and beautiful world and it’s about time to wake up and cherish and protect what we have.”

At the moment I am single. I have been married three times, two of which with the same Colombian lady. From the other marriage I have two children: my daughter Heidi, who is now in her late 20s and more erudite than I ever will be, and my son Carl, 22. Both of them live on Curaçao. I didn’t see my children growing up so I do have a wish to have a second generation of kids. I love children and I love animals. I would love to have a domain with all that. In the philosophy of Anastasia you can come a long way.

Last week I gave a lecture about Anastasia and we’re planning a follow-up in January at Bonaire Basics where Annemiek provided me with an air-conditioned space – something that really touched me.

I am enjoying myself on Bonaire. I like its small size and I’ve met many interesting people, however, the negative part is that I don’t see unity between the Dutch and the Bonaireans. There is an abyss between them and it seems they don’t know anything about each other’s lives. Also, the costs of life are criminally expensive. I really feel lucky that I can make it

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



CLEANING UP THE BOKA



Boka Chikitu

PART 9 FROM THE SERIES,
DOWN IN THE LAND OF BON BINI
CLEANING UP THE BOKA

It all began because I switched. For nearly two seasons I had walked Bonaire's west coast beaches from Red Beryl to Hidden Beach in search of turtle nests. I served as a beachkeeper for Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire. I loved those early Thursday mornings alone, watching the natural world awaken. But when I learned that STCB needed volunteers at remote beaches so they could be monitored more often, I changed to the northeast. It was like plunging into another world.

My new patrol took me to Playa Chikitu, a rough and tumble sand beach in Washington Slagbaai National Park, and its secluded sidekick, Boka Chikitu, a wave torn, wind-swept inlet just to the north. The third location was Boka Onima, another East Coast cove not too far from the Indian inscriptions, south of Rincon. These are wild places. The sea crashes with such force that one is overwhelmed by the sonic collision of water against rock. The waves are enormous and white-capped. Even frigate birds seem intimidated by the relentless, shifty winds that blow onshore. The bokas and the playa demanded my full attention upon arrival. What a difference from the relatively tranquil waters of the west coast beaches.

Most of the turtle nesting in this area is centered at Playa Chikitu, but it is difficult to locate nests here. Strong winds quickly cover telltale tracks in the sand, eliminating clues as to where turtles may have landed or nested. And when the turtles do lay their eggs, it is embryonic chaos. At times, nests are laid on top of previous nests. Some turtles venture far into the dunes or deep under cliff overhangs to bury their eggs. And the hatchlings, rather than making a logical beeline for the water, often travel diagonally to the center of Playa Chikitu to begin their life at sea. Along the way, their tracks are mixed with those of lizards, crabs and other beach beasts whose marks in the sand can look quite similar to those of the hatchlings.

Needless to say, I was somewhat relieved to leave the pandemonium of the playa and head to Boka Chikitu about a kilometer north. That optimism soon switched to disappointment as I stood on the edge of the cliff overlooking the inlet. Below were hundreds of plastic bottles choking the boka, surging back and forth in a disgusting, slow motion waltz of environmental mess. The enormity of this filth reminded me of my childhood growing up in industrial Great Lakes city of Cleveland, Ohio in the US.

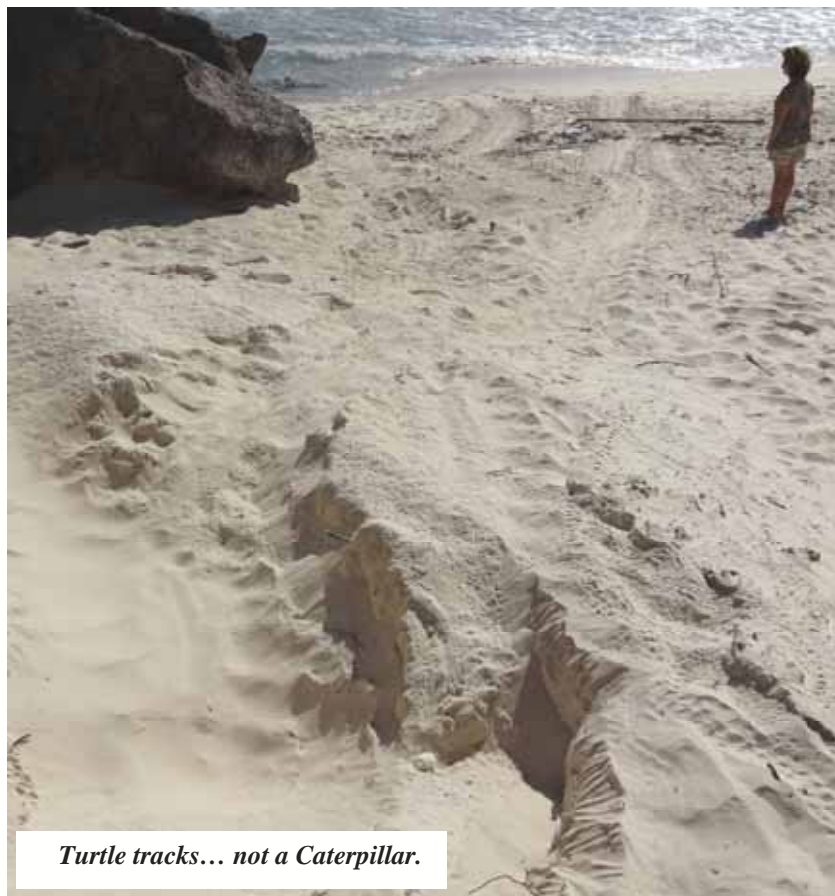
How could this trash end up in our beautiful island? The answer was simple. Currents.

Perhaps you have heard of the Pacific Trash Vortex, an enormous gathering of plastics, toxic sludge and other garbage trapped in the North Pacific Gyre. It is estimated to be the size of Texas. Gyres are massive, rotating ocean currents. The one that dominates the southern Caribbean is the Columbia-Panama Gyre. It flows counterclockwise to the Caribbean Current and dumps undesirable flotsam primarily upon the eastern coasts of Bonaire and other islands. Boka Chikitu, with its receptive inlet walls, has become a catch-all for any trash approaching this part of the island. And that is where I come in.

To say that I was enraged at this pollution upon our shores is an understatement. I decided on that first day looking down into the boka that I would clean up this small



Dangerous trash clogging the boka



Turtle tracks... not a Caterpillar.



All clean

part of *dushi* Bonaire. But it was not easy.

To enter, I had to descend down a 20-foot cliff of craggy rock. One slip and it would become a bloody morning. Next was a scramble through a maze of boulders that abruptly ended at a small sand beach. That is where the cleanup began. Dive Friends equipped me with four large mesh bags each capable holding two and a half cubic feet of rubbish. It took me 15 minutes to fill each bag.

You learn much about humans by picking up their trash. Plastics dominate the scene and most are water bottles. But there are cigarette lighters, motor oil containers, syringes, children's toys, forks, knives, cups, fishing line, footwear, packaging, toothbrushes, headphones, sunglasses and shopping bags—all made from plastic. Probably the most environmentally damaging are the soft plastics—Styrofoam, insulation and other materials that break down easily under the constant forces of surf, salt and sun. These quickly crumble into micro particles that dissipate into the marine environment. Scientists fear that these miniscule bits may be entering the human food chain as a consequence of fish unknowingly ingesting the minutia. Plus, Greenpeace esti-

mates that over a million seabirds and one hundred thousand marine mammals and sea turtles are killed each year by ingestion of plastics or entanglement by microfilament.

So yes, I had a sense of urgency to clean up the boka. For six consecutive Thursdays I climbed down the cliff, negotiated the boulder field and then filled the four bags. After driving back to town I would dump it all into a caged trailer at the Dive Friends' Hamlet location. This depository is a key part of their Debris Free Bonaire program. People can borrow collection bags from Dive Friends, gather plastics from any beach or boka and return the debris to the Dive Friends' Hamlet location. Plastics that are not too degraded by salt and sun are delivered to Bon Recycling next to the Warehouse Bonaire supermarket. By the time my Boka Chikitu cleanup was complete, I had gathered 61 cubic feet, nearly 2 cubic meters of waste.

So what did I get out of this endeavor? Immediate gratification, that is for sure. Seeing a plastic-infested seascape returned to its natural grace was personally rewarding. On a bigger scale, this slice of the island is now rid of a toxic threat, but much more needs to be done. So head down to

Dive Friends, grab a bag and do your part. Not only will the fish and turtles immediately benefit, but so will people, both local and visitor alike. And do not forget about yourself. Making a difference in an increasingly complex world is often difficult at best. This is one simple way you can make an immediate impact, help Bonaire and feel *hopi kontentu* about the change that you made. ■

Story & photos by Patrick Holian



Fill YOUR dive bags with trash too

Hybrid Toyotas Now On Bonaire

Toyota is the world's largest auto maker and Akkermans is Bonaire's largest dealer. They offer lots of amazing vehicles. They sell the world's most durable small pickup, the Hilux, and from the other side of the automotive world, the Lexus.

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Word on the Street

More immigration "reform" is imminent. All immigrants who arrived after 10-10-10 on work permits will supposedly be limited to a three-year stay. After that, they will need to return home. Authorities are checking on the positions held by these workers and if a local can fill the job then the immigrant must go home. Fact or fiction?



- **The sea level in the Caribbean is projected to rise from 30 centimeters up to a meter or more** in the coming century, according to an inter-governmental panel on climate change when it presented its findings in the most recent assessment report in September this year. The sea level rise projection would put most of Bonaire south of Kaya van Eps underwater!
- The new **sewage treatment system** (kloaka project) is just about complete and is due for a test. Inside sources tell us that the test was supposed to be done prior to Christmas. Thankfully, objections were raised as to the wisdom of the timing in the event there were glitches in the system that would result in a less than "holiday air." The test will now be done after Christmas and the first test will be conducted with water, not the actual system "contents."
- More "dirty" **gossip**...word from insiders that the new treatment plant at LVV is still not up and running yet. Seems there are problems with the quality of the equipment. To make matters worse, the old plant (which is still functional) has

been shut down and is not in use. As a result, trucks are again dumping the sewage water into the *mondi*.

- The new and improved **Progresso Supermarket** is now open. Bula's friends say it's fabulous. The old Progresso building will serve as storage for the new grocery store.
- **The Dragon City Restaurant in Hato**, next to Zhung Kong supermarket has been closed for some time. Sources close to the establishment claim it will reopen soon. No one is saying why it was closed.
- **While some restaurants may be for sale....new ones are opening.** Kasa Portugues opened its doors on December 8 in the former location of Cactus Blue on J.A. Abraham Boulevard. They serve Portuguese style food and also "grill" with lots of vegetables. They do not use a lot of cooking oil in order to prepare food with the least amount of fat possible for a healthy meal. Kasa Portugues also makes their own old fashioned bread baked in a charcoal oven. ■ *Bula Bonchi*



Another Sustainable Market Success

On Saturday, November 30, a second Sustainable Market Fair was held at the LVV field with the objective to motivate local people to produce their own fruit and vegetables.

The market was crowded and visitors were surprised by the wonderful array of fresh fruit, vegetables, plants and eggs / chicks / chickens. There were dried medicinal herbs for sale. Sharine Loozen gave information about healthy eating and shared delicious recipes. And, of course there was food, both Kuminda Krioyo and Surinamese.

The Sustainable Market is also intended to stimulate support for local farmers (kunukeros), small or new businesses, and the local economy.

Hydroponics is said to offer effective, practical and inexpensive way to grow vegetables. In the market there was a lot of interest in the hydroponics workshop given by Roald Boom. As a door prize, visitors to the market, were able to win a square meter garden. This was sponsored by Bona Bista Estates.

Roald, as developer of Bona Bista Estates, has for years been experimenting with effective ways to grow fruits and vegetables when water is scarce. Hydroponics is a method of gardening in which plants grow directly in a medium that uses circulating water. The required nutrients are in the water. Sarah deGroot of the Cycle Foundation works closely with Roald. The Cycle foundation provides advice on water management.

LVV's Rocky Emers organized a treasure hunt for children. Children could also par-



Roald Boom and Sarah deGroot flank the meter sq. garden winners

ticipate in the coloring contest and get their faces painted. Thanks to SELIBON all children receive a good prize.

Other market participants included: Plants and fresh vegetables: Edsel Martha Viviana & Cila, Onnie Emerenciana, Fermin, Ingel Almen Kerke, Eithel Isidora and Kru-sada

Fresh meat and fish and eggs: Zarzinio Josephina, family Kerssemakers and Edwin Emerenciana.

Fresh meals and home-made products: Fundashon Inudisen, Gerold Elshuis, Angliet Baidjoe and Ingrid Morales.

Medicinal Herbs & Healthy Recipes: Felomena Janga, Maiky Emers and Sharine Loozen.

Demonstrations: wood chipper - Engivi (Reuben Giskus and Rodney Engkar) hydroponics - Roald Boom and Sarah de Groot.

Face Painting : Shaedra Baromeo
The organizers made a short video of the market that can be seen on Facebook and www.boneiruduradero.org. ■ *Press release*

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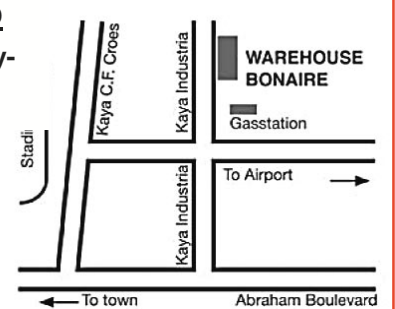
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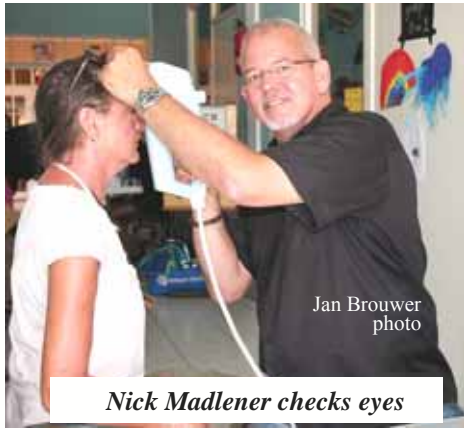


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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3) the Papiamentu and Dutch versions.

The website is not totally complete or free of errors. Please feel free to send in list of mistakes or suggestions for improvement. The next step is to work on a new section about the bats of the ABC Islands and the image of conservation group's mascot, *Leyla Florensia*, should also be finished by the artist before the year ends.

► On Sunday November 17th Sodibon and the Bonaire Lions Club again organized the **International Day of Diabetics** in



Nick Madlener checks eyes

the ABVO building at Kaminda Yatu Baku #30. Prevention was the main word used during the event held between 10 am and 2 pm. Blood pressure, sugar, weight, cholesterol and eye pressure were inspected. Especially high blood pressure, elevated sugar and bad cholesterol are hidden enemies of human health. **Nick Madlener and his crew from Buena Vista Optics** were there too as volunteers to measure the eyes and the eye pressure of
(Continued on page 9)

United Airlines Flights Rescheduled

United Airlines has changed its long-standing non-stop flight schedule US to Bonaire and added flights. Summary:

United nonstop From Houston to Bonaire (IAH to BON):

Starting Jan 3 – Year Round – Friday afternoon departure from Houston (arrives Bonaire early evening) with Saturday morning return from Bonaire back to Houston. See times below.

From February 15 to May 4 and June 7 to August 17 – an identical schedule will be offered on Saturday afternoon (arriving Bonaire early evening) with a Sunday morning return flight from Bonaire to Houston.

United nonstop From Newark to Bonaire (EWR to BON)

January 4 to August 16 - Saturday morning departure from Newark (arriving Bonaire early afternoon) with Saturday afternoon return to Newark. This schedule will resume again in late fall 2014 (pending announced schedule).

From January 5 to May 4 – Sunday morning departure from Newark (arrives Bonaire early afternoon) with Sunday afternoon return to Newark. There is an additional flight for peak March travel weeks from Newark.

From Mar 7 to Mar 28 – Friday morning departure from Newark (arriving Bonaire early that afternoon) with Friday afternoon return to Newark. Check existing reservations. United has been trying to contact booked travelers.

More detail>

EWR departs at 0829 arriving BON at 1422. The return flight leaves BON at 1522 and arrives back at EWR at 1926

IAH departs at 1300 arriving BON at 1952. The return flight leaves BON the following morning at 0822 and arrives back at IAH at 1142.

EWR Newark		31DEC2013 - 06JAN2014	07JAN2014 - 12FEB2014	13FEB2014 - 05MAR2014	06MAR2014 - 31MAR2014
NEW	0830	Sat - Sat	Sat - Sat	Sat - Sat	Fri - Fri
	0830	Sun - Sun	Sun - Sun	Sun - Sun	Sat - Sat
	0830	Mon - Mon			Sun - Sun
IAH Houston		31DEC2013 - 06JAN2014	07JAN2014 - 12FEB2014	13FEB2014 - 05MAR2014	06MAR2014 - 31MAR2014
NEW >>	1300	Thu - Fri	Fri - Sat	Fri - Sat	Fri - Sat
	1300	Fri - Sat		Sat - Sun	Sat - Sun
	1300	Sat - Sun			




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CHAMBER THANKS

Dear Editor

I am writing this to express our sincere gratitude to the exemplary doctors and staff at the Hyperbaric Recompression Chamber here in Bonaire. My husband was recently treated in the chamber for decompression illness after a dive. You have a facility and medical doctors here on the island of Bonaire, that you can be very proud of! The staff were caring and compassionate, and highly skilled. Many thanks for your excellent care, Dr. Roters and Dr. VanderKamp. You were over the top! Thank you as well to all the hospital staff who cared for my husband during his stay there.

Many thanks as well to our excellent dive masters at the BelMar, Samuel and Marloes, who knew exactly what to do, responded immediately and compassionately to the situation by administering oxygen, calling an ambulance and staying by our side. Thank you! We have been

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so very impressed by the kindness of the people of Bonaire during this ordeal. Many thanks to Yuri van Kampen at the Bellafonte for so kindly driving me to the hospital, and back several times and waiting for me while I went in to see my husband. Thank you to an anonymous woman who helped me when I was lost downtown trying to find my way back to the Bellafonte. She just said, "Follow me!" Thank you, whoever you are!

Susan and Gary Berezny
Belleville, Ontario, Canada

BUSINESSMEN AND WORKERS CONCERNED

Dear Editor:

In a letter dated December 3, 2013, from the Bonaire Business & Employers Association (BBE) to the Island Council of the Public Body Bonaire the following points were expressed:

- Public services are not functioning well (resulting in a lack of a widely supported island vision, unclear policy and limited implementation);
- Alternating core staff (including uncertainty due to speculation about succession);
- Limited communication and concrete solutions (leading to unrest among the people).

Examples that were cited by the BBE:

- Tourism does not get the attention it deserves as one of the major pillars of the Bonaire economy (e.g. required changes in TCB are implemented too slowly; relevant data collection has been

discontinued since 2010; and no concrete action to increase airlift is seen);

- Policy and coordination is lacking or miscommunication regarding: The future of the economy of Bonaire, i.e. an approved Strategic Master Plan. Also the situation with respect to specific issues such as business licenses and construction permits is vague.

BBE emphasized the urgency of the above, and offers to help and facilitate a path towards solutions. As such, actions should be defined and prioritized. According to BBE, transparency and dialogue are pivotal to achieve a better economy and create stable future and social progress and prosperity for Bonaire.

Both the Lieutenant Governor and deputies have already responded positively and promised to come back on the above soon.

BBE email release

New Bird Guide Book

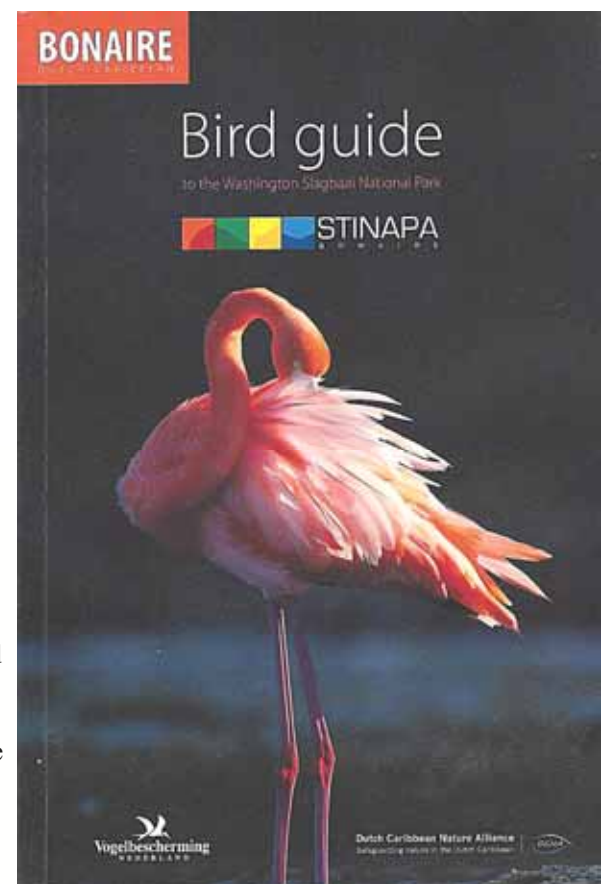
Last Saturday afternoon a beautiful full-color book with detailed descriptions of common and important birds in Washington park and the birding areas within the park and around Bonaire was introduced at Addo's Books on Kaya Grandi.

It will prove invaluable to the many birders and others who appreciate the variety of birds on Bonaire.

The Bird Guide to the Washington Slagbaai National Park has 115 pages with many photos and illustrations and is a publication of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance and STINAPA Bonaire. Price will be only \$ 17.50.

The book was introduced by STINAPA's Elsmarie Beukenboom followed by a presentation by Jerry Ligon (Nature Tours of Bonaire) about the birds of Bonaire. ■

G.D./ Press release



BONAIRE IS HAVING A BUSY CRUISE SEASON

The 2013-2014 Cruise Season started very busily for downtown Kralendijk, which has concluded its third week of a busy season. On November 25 Bonaire experienced one of the busiest days. It welcomed *Azura* from the P&O line and the *Emerald Princess*, both carrying approximately 3,100 cruise passengers each.

On behalf of the Tourism Corporation Bonaire everything related to the operational aspect has been running well. The cruise passengers are giving positive feedback regarding the organization at the port and the relaxed approach of the island which they greatly enjoy.

For the month of November Bonaire welcomed 19,000 passengers. In December we expect about 39,000 passengers, including 6 days with double cruise ships. Additional information regarding the Cruise Schedule is available on line at: www.tourismbonaire.com You can also visit us at the TCB office located at Kaya Grandi 2, for a hard copy of the schedule. If you have any questions you can always contact TCB via Phone number: +599 717-8322.

TCB Press release



Rainy day cruise ship visit

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page #)



From left to right: Peter, Bert, Dirk, Hans and Theo

►Rock n' Roll lovers should be sure to be at the grand re-opening of Tera Cora Ranch on December 21. Featured will be the last performance on Bonaire's senior band, Back On Track. They will play one hour-long set, 8.30 – 9.30 pm that night in farewell. The ranch is reopening under the guidance of new owners Wahid and Nelly who will feature special Iranian treats, including shoarma. A DJ will provide more musical enjoyment too.

hundreds of Bonaireans who wanted to be examined by the specialists.

►The Island Government (OMB), in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce Bonaire is **simplifying the licensing procedure for new companies on the island.**

New businesses no longer need to apply to the Space Management & Development for approval. A license registered with the Chamber of Commerce is sufficient. A business license will be issued automatically. The entrepreneur must still self-check for any other permits that may be required, for example, environmental, etc.

►At the end of this month City Shop will celebrate 20 years in business. From very humble beginnings it has

grown into Bonaire's first appliance/electronics mega-store. And there's more to come. Some big things are in store for the shop in the new year.

►You can use the pages in this edition of *The Reporter* to make a holiday gift list. Just scan the ads for: clothing, plants, dining out, travel, electronics, water sports, diving, massage and beauty treatments, boating gear, fitness training, toys and odds and ends. Many of the businesses offer gift certificates too.

►Be sure to visit the *Reporter's* advertisers and when you do tell them you saw their advertisement in the pages of the *Bonaire Reporter*. It is their support that keeps this newspaper free to its readers.

►Have a safe holiday time ■ G.D./L.D.

Nature's Discount A Great Asset to the Island!



Eveniella Castillo and Eugenie Alberto are there to help you

Nature's Discount opened its doors on Bonaire on October 15. The Aruban owner, John Edward Oduber, runs two similar businesses on Aruba, one at Seru Blancu and one at Pos Chikitu. The shop is professionally laid out and stocked with items we always hoped would be available on Bonaire - like sports nutrition, weight loss products, sexual enhancement products, herbs, vitamins and minerals, gluten free products, GMO free products, food prod-

ucts - ecological and vegan - herbal teas, liquid vitamins, organic cosmetics and soap, Aetrex shoes and Acu Life flip flops.

Nature's Discount is on Kaya Betico Croes (the road to the Stadium), next to Chinese Restaurant Bon Appetit. For more information you can call 717-8859 and shop manager Eugenie Alberto or her assistant Eveniella Castillo will be happy to answer your questions! ■

Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

MONTHLY Goatcheese recipe Fresh and healthy



Gabritu stoba "Semper Kontentu"

Dinner serves 4

Ingredients:

Goatmeat Semper Kontentu	1 kg	Curry	1 teaspoon
Tomato	1x	Oregano	1 teaspoon
Red pepper	1x	Cumin	1 teaspoon
Onion	1x	Water	500 ml
Garlic	3 cloves	Soy sauce	1 tablespoon
Beef broth	1 cube	Tomato paste	1 can

How to prepare:

Cut the goat meat into cubes of 2 by 2 inches. Cut the tomatoes into quarters. Peel and cut the onion into half rings. Peel and halve the garlic. Heat oil in a pan and brown the meat. Crumble the stock cube above it and fry the curry, oregano, cumin, soy, tomatoes, peppers, garlic and onion about 5 minutes. Add water and stir in the tomato paste. Bring to a boil over high heat, reduce heat to low and simmer with lid on the pan in about 1 hour braise. Season with salt and pepper. Serve with rice or funghi. Enjoy the taste and love and care of Aletta's Semper Kontentu.

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M.S. Noordam Crew Cleans Up



M.S. Noordam crew help Dive Friends

Bonaire/East Coast -

On Wednesday, December 11, a bunch of some 20 young members of the entertainment department of the crew of the *M.S. Noordam* helped Dive Friends Bonaire clean another part of the wild East Coast. It was Kristin Viotto (Italian), just married to Grahame Oshea from the *M.S. Noordam*, who started searching the internet because of the fight against pollution. Then she found "Debris Free Bonaire" and ended up on the Dive Friends Bonaire website. Contacts were made with Carolyn Caporusso from Dive Friends, the TCB and Chris and Yvonne from the Tour Operator Bonaire Destination Services. Chris and Yvonne arranged for an old American school bus to transport the volunteers to and from the location along the East Coast near the repainted colorful obelisk.

The day before members of Dive Friends completely emptied their plastic pollution double axle trailer to receive new garbage. In the early hours of that Wednesday morning the 20 volunteers from the *M.S. Noordam* managed to collect over 130 mesh bags with all together some 700 kilograms of plastic debris.

The 100th mesh bag was brought in by Gemma Goldy from good old England. In the meantime Nos TV showed up to record all activities. After one and a half hours the Dive Friends truck-and-trailer were overloaded with plastic and huge rubber hoses and tires. A very successful co-operation of the members of the crew of the *M.S. Noordam* and the volunteers of Dive Friends Bonaire. Kristin Viotto: "I'll be back!" Pascal from Dive Friends: "Without blue there is no green. Conservation through education!" ■

Story & photo by Jan Brouwer



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SUP For Bonaire Kids

Stand Up Paddleboard Crossing to Klein Curaçao



Pre-dawn departure from Atlantis

When Roan Jaspars met Frederick Vloeberghs at Little Havana, little did he know that the two of them would complete a paddleboard adventure for charity. But, on December 2, they left Bonaire kite-beach Atlantis at 6 am to paddle 26 miles across the wide-open Caribbean to Klein Curaçao in order to raise funds for the Food in School Foundation started by the Rotary Club in 2004 to provide over 350 children with a daily healthy breakfast and fruit and vitamins.

Jaspars had run Kite Boarding Bonaire for 10 years and Vloeberghs was a bartender at Little Havana when in 2012 they began practicing paddleboarding around Bonaire, including a 9-mile trip around Klein Bonaire. They decided it was fun and easy and “we can do more and do it for a good cause.” Jaspars had already kite-boarded to Klein Curaçao in two hours and 15 minutes so they agreed to set that point as their destination. All they needed was the motivation of a deserving organization and a good cause. After they chose the Food in School Foundation, they began to organize sponsorships by businesses (they got a total of 37) and then took 110 individual bets on whether they would make it to Klein Curaçao, and, if they did, what would be their exact time.

They started training more rigorously on the paddleboards and at the gym and watching the weather for the best day to make their journey between November 15 and December 15. Many told them that they wouldn't make it because the sea would be too rough, but Jaspars argued, “you can do it but you just have to pick the right day,” a day after three consecutive days with less than 10 knot winds. Finally they picked the day and it was beautiful! With their support boats beside them for the entire journey, they pushed off when it was still dark and tried not to fall into the cold water until 9 am. They



Fish Eye photo

drank water the entire way out of camelback bags to keep hydrated and stopped every half hour for a rest and some high energy sustenance (energy bars, bananas, etc.)



Objective in sight

For Vloeberghs, it was magical “to have only one light in front of me as I paddled in complete darkness.” And extra special was the fact that Vloebergh's mother, Josiane Smets, who was visiting from Holland, was on one of the boats witnessing her son's courage. Even the Coast Guard helicopter from Curaçao flew by to check on them.

Seven hours, 10 minutes, and 53 seconds later, they fell onto the shores of Klein Curaçao, exhausted but happy. When asked if they had any aches and pains from all that paddling, Jaspars admitted “only a little pain in the triceps.” In a few weeks, the duo will know exactly how much money they managed to raise, but they know the winners of the individual bets: first prize

(9 hours of kite lessons) goes to Duco Jaspars, who guessed 7 hours, 13 minutes, and 6 seconds; second prize (half day boat rental from Blue Bay) will be claimed by Larry Gerharts, for 7 hours, 13 minutes, and 15 seconds; and third prize (dinner At Sea restaurant) will be awarded to Gertijian and Martine de Molenaars for 7 hours, 13 minutes, and 20 seconds.

What's next? Jaspars says, “Something will pop up—maybe kite-boarding across the Caribbean to the Dominican Republic.” ■ *Pauline Kayes*

Note: Donations can still be made. Visit their Facebook page at SUP Crossing for Charity. All sea level photos by Jan Lokhorst



Ashore at Klein Curaçao... finally

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The Great Donkey Round-Up

As of last week, 28% of the donkeys caught in the latest Donkey Sanctuary "roundup" were found to be terminally ill or had been so injured or abused sometime in the past that they had to be euthanized. That's more than one in four donkeys captured so far. Sadly, not all the donkeys captured are healthy enough for a life at the non-profit sanctuary that Marina Melis and her husband, Ed Koopman, have run since 1993. As Sanctuary Director Melis explains, "We are not living in a big city with a full-service animal hospital so unfortunately we can't save these donkeys. And who would pay the vet bills?"

On November 1, Bonaire's Donkeys Help Sanctuary began a Catch Program or roundup, with the financial support of the "protecting nature funds" from both the Dutch and Bonaire governments. There are several purposes for the Catch Program: to protect the environment, prevent road accidents that injure both donkeys and people and to control the breeding of donkeys in the wild.

In 1992, when Marina Melis, Director of Donkeys Help Sanctuary, began helping the donkeys of Bonaire, it is estimated that there were 500-600 donkeys roaming around the island. Following the roundup it's hoped there will be fewer than 100.

Inbreeding of Bonaire's donkeys has made them weaker and more vulnerable to disease, adding an additional complication to the "donkey problem."

The first step in the Catch Program is to corral the tamer donkeys, usually females and their foals, with the cooperation of residents of Bonaire who can earn \$20 for each donkey they bring into their yards. Then Melis and the Catch Program crew arrive with a trailer and cart them away to the Donkey Sanctuary. Melis describes this aspect of the program as a "real success."

"Normally we are called only when there are car accidents. Now we are seeing everything."

First are the donkeys hit by cars that no one witnessed and have been living with injuries like broken legs or hips as best they could. Next are the donkeys who had the misfortune to step on rusty nails, cans, or metal in con-

struction areas or contract tetanus, a horrific and fatal disease. Then there are the donkeys with skin diseases, blindness, and infected bite wounds. Then there are the donkeys that have been abused, poisoned, or attacked by humans. For example, one donkey's lip had been severed by a machete so she could not drink or eat. Another had been tied up with barbed wire around one of his feet which became full of gangrene. Several had been poisoned with something that made their skin hang off their bodies. Those poor animals are humanely euthanized by Bonaire veterinarian Dr. Jan Laarakker.

In just one month, the Catch Program has brought 204 donkeys, mostly females and foals, into the sanctuary, while castrating and releasing 48 males. In addition, the males are chipped, equipped with reflectors in their ears (so they can be seen in the dark), and given tetanus vaccinations (to prevent illness and death). Afterwards they are taken to their new homes in the *mondi* where there are few roads and where car accidents and human encounters will be rare. Melis says that the males will no longer wander across busy streets into town looking for females because they will no longer smell them because they won't be there. Ultimately success of the project will be determined by the decrease in car accidents. **Already car accidents have been reduced from two to three a week before the Catch Program to only two in the entire month of November.**

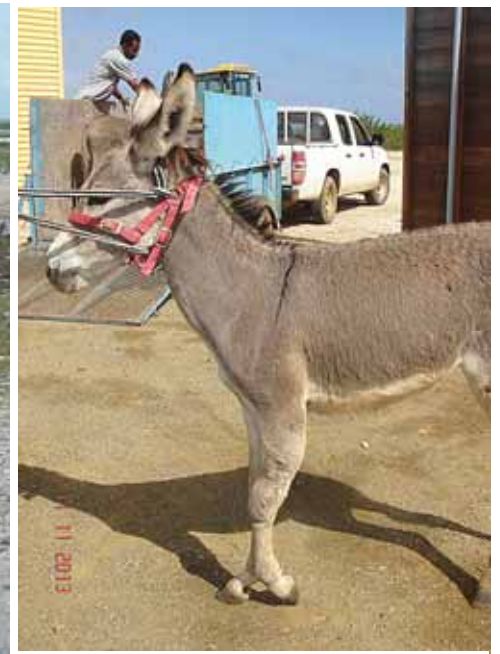
This is a source of great relief to Donkeys Help staff who have been rescuing or euthanizing donkeys hit by cars for years. Melis sighs, "You get sick of it."

The Catch Program will continue for another 10 months until October 31, 2014, because the remaining 100-150 donkeys left are "wild," and difficult to catch, making the work much more time-consuming. In mid-January, Dr. Thys Flahou, a vet from Holland, will join the team with special strategies for catching these wilder donkeys.

For 22 years, Melis has devoted her life to raising money and awareness in support of Bonaire's donkeys. Ultimately she may see a time when she does not have to wake up twice in the middle of night to bottle-feed a foal



This male was released near the Cargill salt pans. Notice the ear tag and antiseptic stain on the right rear leg following gelding.



One indicator of economic times: In the last donkey roundup people were paid NAf 15 (about \$9) each to corral the donkeys. Currently they are paid \$20.



Crew working on The Catch Program: Tom van Gameren, Kenny Haaker, Elvira de Kool, Genaro Anthony. Not pictured: Ed Koopman, Marion Jeursen, Manon Niemeijer, Lisa de Kloet. Credit for all photos: Donkey Sanctuary

orphaned by another car accident, when she doesn't have to rush to the scene of another accident and "send another donkey to donkey heaven," when she doesn't have to rescue another baby stolen from its mother by an ignorant human who wanted a pet.

Although some argue that the donkeys should be left alone and solutions should be found to manage traffic and cut back vegetation, the number of cars are not only increasing but increasing in speed with very few drivers ever receiving speeding tickets from the police. So it is inevitable that cars and donkeys would continue to be on a collision course without human intervention.

Dr. Laarakker, says, "Over the years I have been called for many car accidents with donkeys. Broken legs, severe wounds, and death were often the result of all these accidents. A lot of the time, injured donkeys were left behind unattended until

somebody found it and called the Donkey Sanctuary. The trouble is caused by both speeding drivers and male donkeys chasing each other suddenly across streets. I believe this program will contribute to a significant reduction in all that suffer."

After the Catch Program ends, there will still be the matter of caring for all the donkeys in the sanctuary: food, water, veterinary care, etc. costs an average of \$175 per donkey per year. With the typical life-span of a donkey being approximately 40 years and the final number of donkeys in the sanctuary estimated to be 550, that adds up to a big sum: \$96,250 a year. There has been talk on the island that Melis and Koopman are making money off Bonaire's donkeys, but when you consider an annual price tag of \$96,250, it is clear how this suspicion is unfounded.

(Continued on page 19)



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Remodeled TCB Office Opens



TCB head Ethsel Pieterella in the new lobby of the remodeled TCB at Kaya Grandi 2

The Tourist Corporation Bonaire (TCB) held an open house on December 6 to show off their newly remodeled offices to the public. Visitors could tour the new facility then enjoy food and drinks set up under tents in the parking lot. There was a great, cheerful ambiance.

Ethsel Pieterella, TCB Director, was joined for the opening with Island Government Deputies Silvana Janga-Servilia and James Kroon. Malinda Hassell, the TCB marketing Manager, was the Mistress of Ceremonies.

Before the remodeling the offices were showing their age. The reception lobby was small and cluttered, the Internet connection slow, the computers ancient. The remodeling has created an open landscape office space, a spacious lobby featuring local artists on a rotating basis (currently Henk Roosendaal), cheerful colors and fast computers connected to a fast Internet connection. There is also a lovely Christmas tree there too.

Outside, above the entrance to the office there is a large LED information billboard offering public service messages, information about local events and can be used for bulletins like weather warnings or special greetings. ■ Press release/G.D.



Aruban Coco Balentien, the Japan Home Run King; Bonaire's World Freestyle Windsurfing Champion Kiri Thode; Miss Tourist World Teen Beauty, Radiera Alberto; TCB head Ethsel Pieterella; and US Major League baseball star, Xander Bogaerts from Curaçao.

Bondigro: The Mouse That Roars!



Bonaire/Kralendijk – The only thing you have to do to find the blue building of Bondigro b.v. is to follow the signs to the Van den Tweel Food Group and finally ignore them. Bondigro is located along the same road, Kaya Industria Zuid, according to the map of Bonaire, in a new and basic and non-air-conditioned building with just one freezer and one cooler.

Bondigro b.v. opened its supermarket's doors on Friday December 6th for shareholders and on Monday December 9th for all Bonaireans. Owner Roland Schalker promised to open his enterprise in the beginning of December and indeed he and his employees did. Overhead costs are held as low as possible and the final result is low prices for good quality products from the States, from Europe and from Bonaire. Yes: from Bonaire! Since last Monday The

Dutch Bakery supplies fresh baked bread and there is an assortment of fresh fruits and vegetables.

I feel a kind of honored to have been able to buy one share in the co-operation of the Bondigro b.v.. Especially on that first Friday it was fun to meet other consumers. Apparently they had also bought one or more shares. Roland Schalker is proud of his enterprise: "We finally made it with the help of our shareholders. The containers with all the food arrived just in time and the next containers are already on their way. There is plenty of food in stock and every now and then we have something different. The bath towels are selling like hell and we almost ran out of reading glasses. Perhaps that's because of the low prices!" ■ Story & photo by Jan Brouwer

Also see the Nov. 4-18 Bonaire Reporter edition for more on Bondigro

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Musical Christmas Farmers' Market Cover Story



Kriabon's special Christmas Farmers' Market, Saturday, December 7, was full of surprises. Not only were there people selling plants, home made edibles, bunnies, birds, craft objects, but visitors were treated to a performance of the Splash Pop Choir. Comprised of kids of all ages and abilities the choir's renditions of Christmas and popular songs brought smiles to everyone's faces. Some of these kids have amazingly mature voices, drawing oohs and aaahs from the audience. The choir is led by musician Rhonda Bennett, who says the choir will be making appearances this winter at Eddy's Gormandaise restaurant at Sand Dollar. Their first performance will be Thursday, December 19, at 6 pm at Eddy's. Look for further announcements in *The Reporter*. Not only did this group sing, but they'd hand crafted and were selling Christmas ornaments to fund raise for their audio equipment (see cover photo).

Many thanks to Agnes Joosten and her hard working staff for putting on these monthly Farmers' Markets every first Saturday of the month, no matter what the weather - rain or shine. The markets are at Kriabon, the farmers' cooperative, on Kaminda Yatu Baku #55, next to Aquamarin School. The next market will be on Saturday, January 4, 2014, from 8 am to 1 pm. Every month there's something different. Support our growers ...And....Buy local! ■ *Story & photos by Laura DeSalvo*

Picture Yourself In Suriname



Bonaire island residents Rob and Patricia Schut sent us this photo from their vacation in Suriname. This was taken near a river of the heritage village of Gunsij.

We Would Love to Print Your PHOTO!

Send to info@bonairereporter.com

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Shelter Art Auction

You have to hand it to the Bonaire Animal Shelter staff, board of directors and their faithful volunteers. They know how to really make it fun to raise money and make sure everyone has a good time.

On Saturday, December 7, they held their Shelter Dinner and Art Auction at Roomer and the energy was high and exciting as guests looked over the 56 different items for the "Main Auction" and 25 for the "Silent Auction." Great stuff: paintings, photography, an electric bike, horseback riding, even "make your pet "Pet of the Week"...the list goes on. The 128 diners, seated around the pool, under tents, were treated to a complete Indonesian dinner, cooked by three pros: Rosita Paiman, Jerry vd Weteringe-Buys and Boudewijn (Bous) Scholts.

The Auction started at 8 as more people arrived, ready to bid.

The ever ebullient, Harry van Ouweelen, was auctioneer and had everyone laughing at his quips. But how does he do that fast talking when the bids get heated? Amazing what a "silver tongue" can do.

Results of the dinner and auction: 128 dinner tickets sold—\$2,000.

Results of the auctions - \$11,500.

This amount goes towards helping construct a new cat cage for the beleaguered felines who suffer getting soaked every time a rain cloud passes by over the present leaky cat cage.

Big thanks go to the sponsors: Warehouse, Gio's, Hotel Roomer (Nicolle and Martin helped a lot setting up the site), Jacobs Architekten.

To all the artists who were willing again to donate some of their work and to all the companies that donated vouchers and other items.

To all the volunteers: kitchen, serving, set-up and decorating, collecting and organizing the art items, administration, etc. ■ *Story & Photos by Laura DeSalvo. Thanks to Paul Wichers*

more photos on page 20



Shelter manager Marlies gives a big thank you hug to auctioneer Harry



*Kitchen crew: L to R: Ann, Angliet, Jetty, Rosita, Amina and Denise
Volunteers not shown: Judith, Renee, Petra, Eduard, Marcel*



Patrick Holian's photographic "paintings" up for auction

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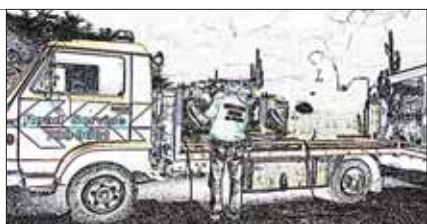


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REAL ESTATE AND RENTALS

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Furnished house for rent , long-term as of December 24, 2013 Price: \$ 1300 [negotiable with long term lease] Rooms: 3 bedrooms [2 with air conditioner] , 2 bathrooms, large back private balcony with BBQ. Alarm system installed 10 min. walk from the ocean and 5 min. walk from town in quiet Sabana. Garden with lots of flowers and plants. If interested please call: **717-8603**

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 16	12:05	21:39	1.03 ft	-0.13 ft		6:49	18:14
Tue 17	12:45	22:23	0.98 ft	-0.14 ft	Full Moon	6:49	18:14
Wed 18	13:23	23:00	0.93 ft	-0.15 ft		6:50	18:14
Thu 19	14:01	23:29	0.88 ft	-0.14 ft		6:50	18:15
Fri 20	14:38	23:53	0.82 ft	-0.13 ft		6:51	18:15
Sat 21	15:16		0.76 ft		Winter Solstice	6:51	18:16
Sun 22		00:11	07:10	10:42	15:55	6:52	18:16
Mon 23		00:27	07:06	12:17	16:37	6:52	18:17
Tue 24		00:42	07:16	13:34	17:20	6:53	18:17
Wed 25	L	00:57	07:34	14:43	18:07	6:53	18:18
Thu 26	Quarter	01:14	07:59	15:46	18:58	6:54	18:19
Fri 27		01:35	08:31	16:46	19:53	6:54	18:19
Sat 28		02:01	09:07	17:44	20:56	6:55	18:20
Sun 29		02:32	09:49	18:39	22:07	6:55	18:20
Mon 30		03:09	10:34	19:31	23:29	6:55	18:21
		03:55	11:24	20:19			

For sale (\$10) or for free: Black Bieffe Modula R4 **motorcycle helmet** made of a mix of Carbon and Kevlar. So called system helmet, to use as a full face helmet or a jet helmet. Excellent condition. J@nBrouwer, Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas-Debrot 166 (the house with the helmets), Hatoaan Zee, **796-3637**, digital-is1956@hotmail.com

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Mystery Flight, and Fiery End MCB Award Night



Venezuelan government photo of the burning aircraft

The flight of an executive jet from Mexico to the Caribbean island of Bonaire and on to a grassy field in Venezuela's remote south, where it was reduced to a smoldering heap, seems straight out of a novel about the drug trafficking underworld.

The flight occurred November 4, and it has been in the international news ever since.

What is most curious is the row that the aircraft's destruction has sparked between Mexico and Venezuela, and Mexico's pique about a flight that had all the signs of a drug transport excursion.

Mexico's Attorney General's Office issued a statement (Spanish language) declaring that it would press on the case until there is "total clarification." That may be a Mexican elocution for: Stop asking questions. Let the case drop.

The aircraft in question was a Hawker Siddeley DH-125 executive jet that came off the factory line in 1969 -- an old disposable aircraft of the kind favored by drug traffickers. If they need to abandon it after a drug flight, no big deal.

The plane, carrying Mexican license XBMGM, took off from Queretaro in central Mexico on Nov. 4. It carried two pilots and five passengers. The flight plan said it would head to Bonaire's Flamingo International Airport. Bonaire, a Dutch overseas territory, is off Venezuela's coast.

In Bonaire, four passengers got off. The two pilots and another passenger flew on. The flight plan called for the jet to travel to La Ceiba, a city on the north coast of Honduras. But when the aircraft flew off west of Barquisimeto, Venezuela, it suddenly veered south and flew to Venezuela's Apure state, a remote state of grasslands bordering Colombia.

Apure state is a staging area for Colombia's FARC guerrillas and is considered one of the hemisphere's prime areas for cocaine shipments leaving Colombia's eastern plains.

At 10:36 p.m. on Nov. 4, Venezuela's military said it intercepted the rogue aircraft and forced it down, where it was "immobilized." The two pilots and passengers apparently fled.

How the executive jet landed in a grassy field with no landing lights at nighttime is among unanswered questions. A photo apparently taken the next morning shows the aircraft burned to a smoldering heap.

Was it shot down or forced down at a landing strip and later flown to the field, where it was burned?

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said the next day that the aircraft was the latest of 30 destroyed as part of his nation's battle against drug traffickers.

Mexico's Foreign Relations Secretariat immediately issued a diplomatic note asking Venezuela to provide proof that it acted in accordance with international law.

The note made Maduro bristle. On Nov. 9, he told journalists that the plane carried narcotics, and that "the Mexican president should know that he is interceding on behalf of a plane that was full of cocaine."

Whether that is true is unclear. Were there residues of cocaine in the plane? Or did it carry a full load of narcotics, as Maduro alleges? Why did Venezuela not offer photos?

A series of diplomatic exchanges and recriminations have taken place since then, and the mystery only deepens.

In its latest statement, the Mexican Attorney General's Office says the two pilots and one passenger who flew on from Bonaire carried false passports. The four passengers who disembarked in Bonaire traveled on to Bogota, Colombia, later returning to Mexico. All four carried legitimate passports, the statement says. Three of them have undergone questioning by prosecutors, it adds.

The whereabouts of the two pilots and the last passenger are unknown.

Even as the statement says Mexico wants "total clarification" of the case, it still hasn't answered elemental questions. Mexico maintains the aircraft was "shot down," but offers no proof itself of that. Authorities also haven't explained why the aircraft diverted to what is arguably a no-man's cocaine staging area. They also haven't said who owns the aircraft, details about the other passengers, and what legitimate reasons they might have for taking such an odd flight.

It appears there is no intention of providing further information. Case closed.

■ McClatchy Foreign Staff

Read more here: <http://www.kansascity.com/2013/11/28/4656113/a-mystery-flight-and-its-fiery.html#storylink=cpy>



Members of MCB Bonaire present the award check to the leaders of Bonaire's Alzheimer Foundation at Merit Award night.

Each December for the past 12 years the MCB Bank in Bonaire holds a party for the press and presents a cash gift to a deserving non-profit foundation on the island. This year the Alzheimer Foundation was presented with the Merit Award, a \$2000 check and the bank's appreciation for a worthy contribution to the community.

Over the years a variety of organizations serving the public with active volunteers that better the social fabric of the island, They have included:

- 2002 Bonaire Sailing Foundation, BSAF
- 2003 Bonaire Special Olympics
- 2004 Sentro pa Hubentut Jong Bonaire
- 2005 Bonaire Youth Outreach
- 2006 Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds
- 2007 Fundashon pa Kuido di Bista i Oido (FKBO)
- 2008 Stinapa
- 2009 Fundashon Sebiki
- 2010 Fundashon Historiko Kultural Boneriano (FuHiKuBo)
- 2011 Fundashon Diabetiko Boneriano (Sodibon)
- 2012 Fundashon Pro Hubentut Boneiru

The 2013 awardee, Fundashon Alzheimer Bonaire, was founded on June 25, 2011. Working with Fundashon Mariadal's *Kas di Kuido* (Elderly Care Home) they have organized special activities to guide and support the families of the victims, hosted symposia, raised community awareness and more. In 2014 more activities are planned like workshops and discussion groups and presentations to selected organizations. Support on social media, like Facebook, will continue.

At the close of the award formalities Ingrid Fenies, MCB's Assistant to Management who was serving as mistress of ceremonies, announced the winner of a competition among the Bonaire Press Corps that was begun at MCB's Press Day celebration on September 1. The Press was challenged to write an essay presenting their vision of possible economic future for Bonaire and how that could be accomplished, Five entries were submitted and the winner was *The Bonaire Reporter* (clipping at right from St. Maarten).

The presentations closed with thanks, holiday greetings and a small gift for all the members of the press in attendance.

■ Press release/ G.D.

THE DAILY HERALD, Wednesday, December 11, 2013



George d' Salvo of the Bonaire Reporter receives his prize for the best essay on a future vision for the economic development of the island in a contest organized by Maduro & Curiel's Bank (MCB) in Bonaire. The annual Service Award went to the local Alzheimer's Foundation.



Musical entertainment for the evening at the new Ingrid's Restaurant at Buddy Dive was offered by Elger Verschuur, vocalist Michelle Schuijling and Terence de Haseth

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

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AUTOMOBILE DEALER

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BANK

ORCO Bank offers one-on-one attention, personal banking. Each client is a person, not a number. Their office is in the historic building at Kaya Grandi 48.

BARS

Zazu Bar at the Harbour Village Marina is all you expect in a great bar. Super bartender, quality drinks and friendly service. Plus Bonaire's only Rum Bar— over 50 types! Great hangout spot for divers and sailors.

BEAUTY

Bon Bida Spa Therapeutic Massage — Certified masseuse offers the best conventional massages, sports massage, after-dive massage and more. Ask for **Inge Bruijn**.

Beauty Inside Outs— Center for skin care and beauty treatments. Luxury facials, manicures, pedicures, massage, makeup and waxing. Kaya J.A. Abraham #25.

Face Clinic of Bonaire offers anti aging treatments under the care of a medical professional. Injectibles like Botox and Hyaluronic Acid available. Call or email for a free consultation. 7950827, info@fceclinicbonaire.com

Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing. Great new shop on Kaya Grandi. Walk-in service too.

CARS AND BIKES

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

DENTURE REPAIR

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ON and IN the WATER

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

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

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

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

HOME CARE

VanEps Property Management B.V./Bonaire Second Home Care can handle all the needs of second home owners on Bonaire including inspection, management and cleaning.

INSURANCE

MCB's BSure insurance department can help no matter what kind of Insurance you need. You can do it all by Internet or visit their new downtown office next to the Playa branch

OPTICIAN

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

PHOTOGRAPHER

Bonaire's creative above or underwater video and still photographer for the wedding or other important events in your life. **ScubaVision**, Kaya Grandi 6. See website scubavision.info or ScubaVision on YouTube

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RESTAURANTS

Bistro de Paris— Waterfront location at the Harbour Village Marina. Superb menu, genuine French dishes in a waterfront ambiance. Airoc if you want it. Its Zazu Bar is a very popular hangout for divers too.

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

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

STORAGE

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



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SPAS/GYM/HEALTH

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SUPERMARKETS

TOP Supermarket— Conveniently located **downtown** at the old Culti-mara 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. Souvenir mugs available.

VARIETY STORE

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

WATER TAXI

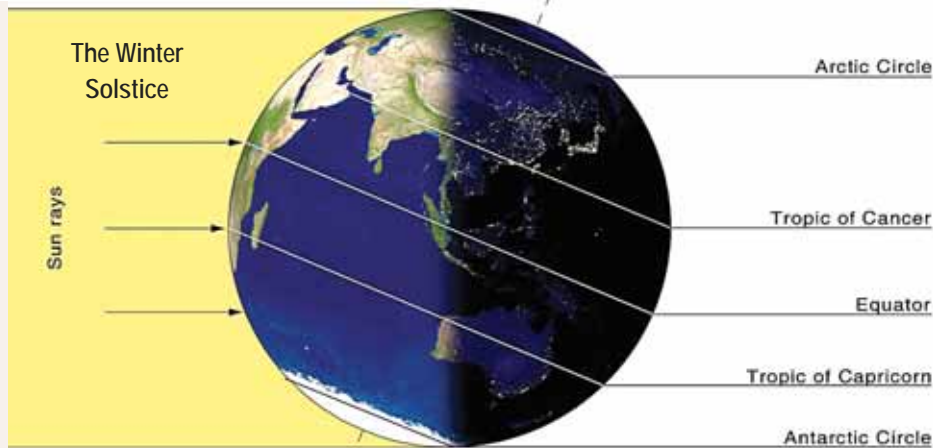
Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor*. Hotel or downtown pickup The only water taxi to Klein Bonaire with an easy on/off built-in ramp at Bonaire Nautico (It Rains Fishes Restaurant)



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

PLANETS AT THE WINTER SOLSTICE



Venus is the only planet easily visible at dusk and nightfall throughout December. It is shining at its brightest now; you can't miss it. Venus! It's the beautiful **Evening Star**. Plus **Jupiter** can be seen in the evening sky. In early December, look for the giant planet to rise in the east about three hours after sunset, or at about the time that Venus sets. By late December, Jupiter will be up by dusk or nightfall, or roughly an hour before Venus sets in the west. If you have an unobstructed horizon, you should be able to see Venus and Jupiter shining pretty much opposite each other at early evening, starting around the second week of December. **They are the sky's two brightest planets, and they'll be like bright bookends, briefly, enclosing the evening sky.**

Venus continues to climb higher in the west after sunset as it brightens to magnitude -4.9, its most dazzling display of the year.

Meanwhile, if you're a night owl or early riser, watch for **Mars** and **Saturn** and **Mercury** in the morning sky. Mars shines in front of the **Constellation Virgo** ▶, rising in the east about one hour after the midnight hour in early December, and coming up around midnight on New Year's Eve. Mars reaches its highest point for the night at or near dawn all through December. At mid-northern latitudes, Saturn rises about two hours before the **Sun** in early December, and nearly four hours before sunrise by late December.

Meteor shower watchers will be disappointed to learn that because the moon is in its **fat, gibbous phase**, it diminishes the normally reliable **Gemind meteors** and stands to the right of Jupiter on the 18th.

Jupiter, in **Gemini**, conveniently rises by 7 pm and shines at a brilliant magnitude -2.7. The Giant Planet is now a telescopic showpiece in advance of its imminent opposition on January 5.

Winter begins with the solstice at 12:11 pm on the 21st.

The word solstice comes from the Latin words for "Sun" and "to stand still." In the Northern Hemisphere, as summer advances to winter, the points on the horizon where the Sun rises and sets advance southward each day; the high point in the Sun's daily path across the sky, which occurs at local noon, also moves southward each day. At the Winter Solstice, the Sun's path has reached its southernmost position. See graphic above. The next day, the path will advance northward. However, a few days before and after the winter solstice, the change is so slight that the Sun's path seems to stay the same, or stand still. The Sun is directly overhead at "high-noon" on Winter Solstice at the latitude called the **Tropic of Capricorn**. In the Northern Hemisphere, the solstice days are the days with the fewest hours of sunlight during the whole year. ■

Bob Berman



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

December 2013

ARIES (Mar. 21-April 20) You will have to be careful not to let others find out about your intentions. A romantic dinner, followed by a quiet evening with the one who is enticing you, should be most satisfying. Look before you leap. Problems on the home front might be a little disconcerting. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21) You can mix business with pleasure to get favorable results. Entertainment could cost you more than you expect. You may be experiencing emotional turmoil in regard to your mate. It might be time to make a fresh start. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Get help to finish a project if you need it. Matters pertaining to work must be completed before you leave. Be aware of any emotional deception. Do not sign legal contracts or documents this month. You will be able to get your own way if you use your intellectual charm and know how. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Older family members may take advantage of you by making you feel guilty. Avoid any over indulgences. Avoid getting involved with married individuals. Discord may arise with someone you're close to. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Be careful if a friend asks you for advice. Problems with gas, oil, or water in your home may disrupt your routine. Discord may arise with someone you're close to. Try to keep any mood swings under control; they may result in alienation. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23) You could expand your circle of friends if you get involved in unusual activities. You're in the mood to get out and visit friends. You are best to stick to yourself this month. Investments are best left alone this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) Have a heart-to-heart talk with family and find out what the problems are. Try not to let relatives or friends cause any friction with your mate. You're best to avoid disputes. You will find the perfect outfit if you shop this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 2) Physical work or exercise should be part of your schedule. Take time to find out if anyone has a better suggestion before you make arrangements for the whole family. Older family members may try to make demands that are impossible for you to handle. You are able to make changes in your home that will be favorable to all involved. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Romance may be better than you ever thought possible. Be prepared to encounter new friendships that will provide you with valuable information. Don't overdo it. You need to enjoy yourself. Your health may have suffered due to neglect or abuse. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Residential moves will be favorable, and larger quarters the most probable direction. Use your genuine warmth and compassion to win hearts. Travel if it's needed to start the ball rolling. You may win favors if you present your ideas and include your family. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Be careful if a friend asks you for advice. Don't let the moods of those you live with get you down. Reevaluate your situation. Observations will be far more productive. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You may find that your mate is well aware of the circumstances. Your emotional stability may influence the changes taking place in your personal life. You will easily capture the interest of those you talk to. You need an outlet. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday. ■

Donkeys (Continued from page 12)

While the government will fund a food program for 100 donkeys the first year, the remainder of that money to feed the other 450 donkeys must be raised through donations.

Fortunately Bonaire's Donkey Sanctuary has received awards and honors from groups like PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare), *NederlandsEzelstamboek* Donkey Society Holland, the Donkey Sanctuary UK, and others. These connections have enabled Melis to create a network for donations, grants, bequests, etc. that will help support Bonaire's donkeys into their old age. And speaking of old age, currently there are about 30 donkeys at the sanctuary who are consid-

ered "seniors," that is, over 30 years, so there are plans to reserve a special eating area for them as they eat very slowly and can't compete with the younger donkeys who eat in half an hour while it takes the seniors two hours for the same meal.

The Catch Program may not be the perfect solution or please everyone, but for those who still want to see Bonaire's donkeys—you can either visit the Donkeys Help Sanctuary's Safari Park or hike deep into the *mondi* to see the last wild geldings and perhaps a stallion. ■



Pauline Kayes

Comment by Donkey Catch attending veterinarian Odette Doest :

"The donkey project is a challenge. When I interviewed various people from Bonaire it was clear that the memories of fighting male donkeys in the middle of the street or near misses on the road were not the encounters people are going to miss. Yet the donkey is a cultural heritage that will be missed if it totally disappears. What to do with the joke that the Karnaval parade could not start because a donkey ate the *garoshi*. (cart)?"

The expansion and growth of development on Bonaire and the increased donkey population do not match well.

I believe in transparency and I hope the project will be a good example of various groups and disciplines working together and learning from each other for the benefit of the donkeys.

So the donkey, once neutered, returned to the wild, will be treated well. The old and handicapped will live happily ever after in the sanctuary, and donkeys no longer will need to suffer from neglect, traffic accidents and needless fighting among themselves." ■



Odette Doest

For A Cleaner Bonaire

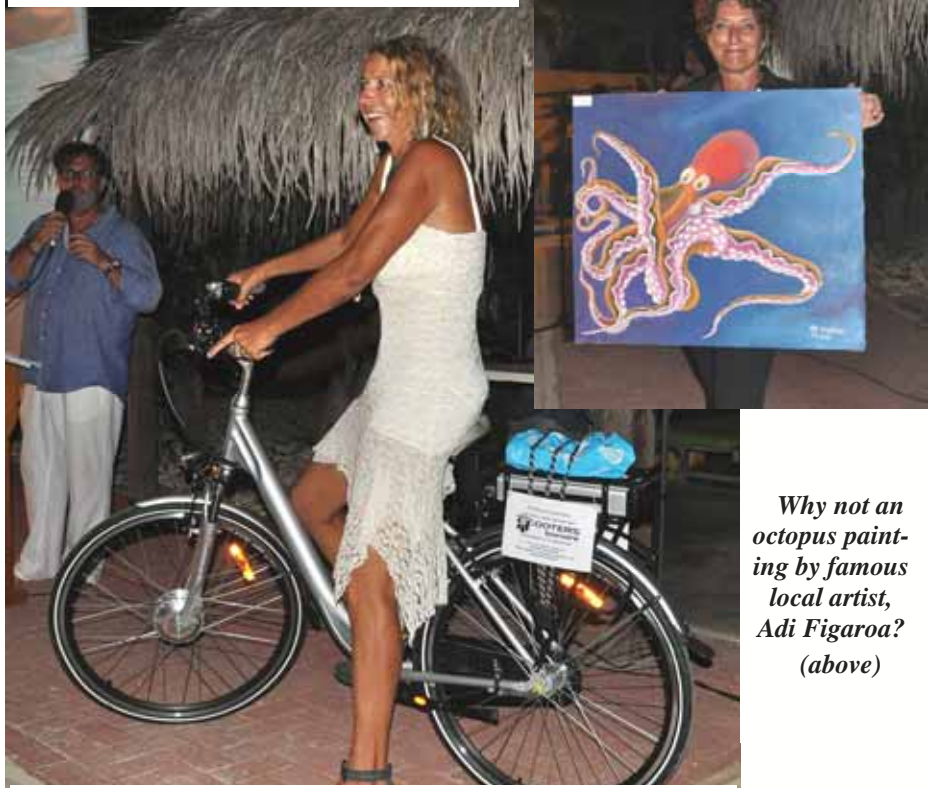


Recently 43 of the participants of the Basic Cleaning Course initiated by the RCN in collaboration with Forma received a **recognized vocational diploma**. RCN financed the course following a public tender for Cleaning & Glass Cleaning (*Schoonmaak & Glasbewassing Caribisch Nederland*).

Last Monday the happy course participants received their diploma at Eddie's Gourmandise Restaurant. Course instructor Brigitte van Ham (in front on the left side, wearing a black blouse) was amazed by the tremendous expressions of gratitude and congratulations she received. In total the course took 18 class hours, divided over six sessions of three hours each and a final exam.

Bonaire has always gotten high marks for its clean outdoors. Now the reputation will be extended to indoors as well. ■ *Press release/ G.D.*

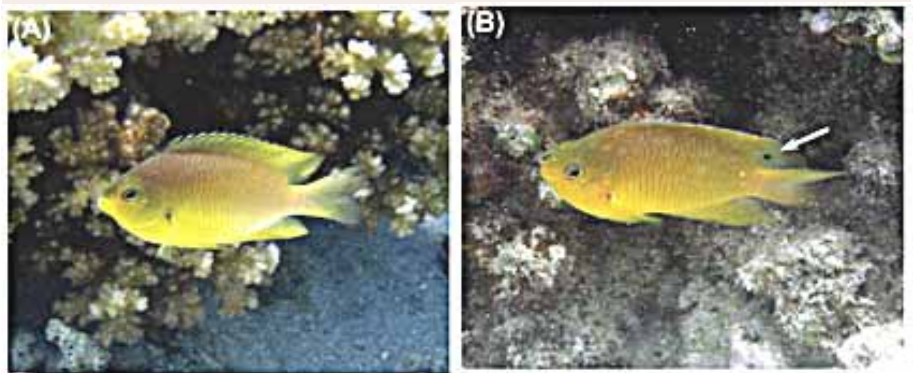
Animal Shelter Auction, continued from page 15...



Why not an octopus painting by famous local artist, *Adi Figaroa?* (above)

Who will bid on this electric bike?

DID YOU KNOW?



Eyespots on damselfishes are not always a distraction for the predators? Scientists have discovered that the eyespots on adult ambon damselfishes are actually deceptive makeup! The black eyespot is commonly found on juvenile ambon damsels, and as they reach maturity, they lose the eyespot. It is like having a birthmark that disappears after a person reaches the age of 18. But, some ambon damsels are found to keep this birthmark after they become adults. On top of this, they keep a body shape that is close to a juvenile or immature female. Like most fishes, these small damselfish turn into males after a certain age. Yet, some male ambon damsels decides to keep their eyespots! So the next time you see a yellow damselfish with an eyespot on its fin towards the tail region, don't immediately decide its gender! It might be an adult damselfish that had makeup on! ■ *Austin Lin*

Austin Lin is a Marine and Conservation Biology major from Seattle University. He is studying on Bonaire for the fall semester at CIEE Research Station.



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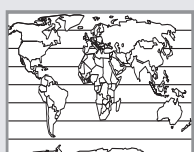
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The Bonaire Reporter, George DeSalvo (*G.D.*), Publisher; Laura DeSalvo (*L.D.*), Editor - Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. Available online at: www.bonairereporter.com *Published every two weeks*

Reporters: Bob Berman, Bula Bonchi, Jan Brouwer, Florence Ditlow, Jane Madden-Disko, Patrick Holian, Pauline Kayes, Greta Kooistra, Austin Lin, McClatchy foreign staff, Michael Thiessen,

Unattributed photos are by the editor or publisher.

Distribution: Marlene & Co. (Playa), Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Divi-Divi Airline, Ava Rose Wuyts (mailing)

Housekeeping: JRA.

Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao ©2013 *The Bonaire Reporter*

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Saturday, Dec. 21– Winter Solstice at 12:11 pm (more on page 19)
Shortest day of the year

Wednesday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day (legal holiday)

Thursday, Dec. 26- Boxing Day (legal holiday)

Tuesday, Dec. 31 - Fireworks show in the streets of Bonaire

2014

Wednesday, Jan. 1 - New Year's Day & Maskarada (legal holiday)

Saturday, Jan. 4 - Kriabon's Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market) 8 am-1pm, Kaminda Yatu Baco #55

Saturday, Jan. 11 - Dive Friends Bonaire's Underwater Cleanup

Sign up as soon as possible for the "Musika Konta ta" on January 17



100 children between 8 and 14 can now register for the music project, "Musika Konta ta" ("Children Making Music"). During the project children learn krioyo and brass band instruments. Classes start with a joint kick-off on January 17, in Wilhelmina Park. You can sign up at Jong Bonaire. Participation is free.

Musika Konta ta is an initiative of Fundashon Plataforma Kultural, Jong Bonaire and Skol di Musika. The children may choose between krioyo instruments and brass band instruments and learn to make music together. After the kickoff, the children receive weekly group music lessons at Jong Bonaire and Skol di Musika. The children will give a concert together in June 2014.

Music is an important part of culture on Bonaire. With this project, the partners hope to contribute to musical traditions. Moreover, a study by UNICEF says that there is a need for meaningful leisure activities for children on Bonaire. With "Children Making Music" in the first year, 100 children can spend their free time in a good way. They learn to make music together and play a musical instrument.

Children Making Music is a unique partnership between the Orange Fund and the Fund for Prince Bernhard Culture Funds. The Skanfonds and the SNS REAAL Fonds also provide funding.

REGULAR EVENTS

Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

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– Bonaire's 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

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 -- 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

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

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

Lions Club meets every **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 or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. De-

brot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. Tuesday 7:30 pm-Adult Bible study class. 717-8377 for more info or ride bonaireibc@yahoo.com

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: 10:30am & 7pm; Wednesday: 7pm. Services in Papiamentu (English also if needed) Address: Kaya Msgr. Nieuwindt 25 (same street as Dr. Dorvil) Cell: 796-0721 email: iglesiadicristobonaire@gmail.com

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

Cruise Ship Tentative Schedule

DAY	DATE	NAME	ARR/DEP	PAX	Cruise Line
Monday	16---Dec-13	Maasdam	0700---1700	1258	HAL
Monday	16---Dec-13	Legend of the Seas	0700---1400	2435	Celebrity/RCCL
Tuesday	17---Dec-13	Vision of the Seas	0800---1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Tuesday	17---Dec-13	Thompson Dream	0800---1500	1132	Thompson Dream CL
Saturday	21---Dec-13	Seabourn Pride	0800---1800	208	Seabourn/HAL
Tuesday	24---Dec-13	Vision of the Seas	0800---1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Tuesday	24---Dec-13	Azura	0800---1800	3080	P&O Cruises
Wednesday	25---Dec-13	Aida Luna	0800---1800	2194	Aida Cruises
Friday	27---Dec-13	Legend of the Seas	0700---1400	2435	Celebrity/RCCL

Pet of the Week

Jenna is a young, classic calico cat ready for her "fur-ever" home. Calico cats are not a breed, "calico" describes the color pattern of a white cat with orange (or red or reddish-brown) and black patches on the coat. In Dutch they are called *lapjeskat* ("patches cat") and the Japanese call them *mi-ke* ("triple fur"). In many cultures, calico cats are believed to bring good luck and in the US they are often referred to as "money cats."

Because color is related to the x chromosome, over 90% of cats with this color are female. Sometimes described as "old souls" calicos are notoriously warm-hearted, affectionate and intelligent. One famous calico rescued her entire person and animal family from a burning house by scratching on each bedroom door.

While Jenna hasn't saved anybody...yet, she definitely fits the description of warm-hearted, affectionate and intelligent. Her markings are a beautiful deep red and black with a snow white chest. She loves to have her belly rubbed and really appreciates strokes on her long, broad nose. Jenna is the champion "mouser" of the compound. She is the first to pounce on toys and gets the whole gang to chase her as she runs off carrying the prize in her mouth.

Jenna is eight months old, sterilized, vaccinated and in perfect health. If you are looking for a loving and "lucky" cat with beautiful calico markings, then Jenna is waiting for you. You can visit her and all the other deserving residents of the Bonaire Animal Shelter Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm and 3-5pm at Kaminda Lagun 26A. ■ *Story: Jane Madden- Disko. Photo: Laura DeSalvo*



The Pet Project 2013 Benefits Animal Shelter and Your Pet

Happy New Year's celebration is coming. We'll be festive when we ring in the year with fireworks. Our pets react with confusion due to the unusual noise. The New Year period unfortunately sees the loss of pets that run away from these loud noises. Fortunately, help is available in an inexpensive, non toxic form. It has helped many people effectively for a variety stresses. It is named "Rescue Remedy."

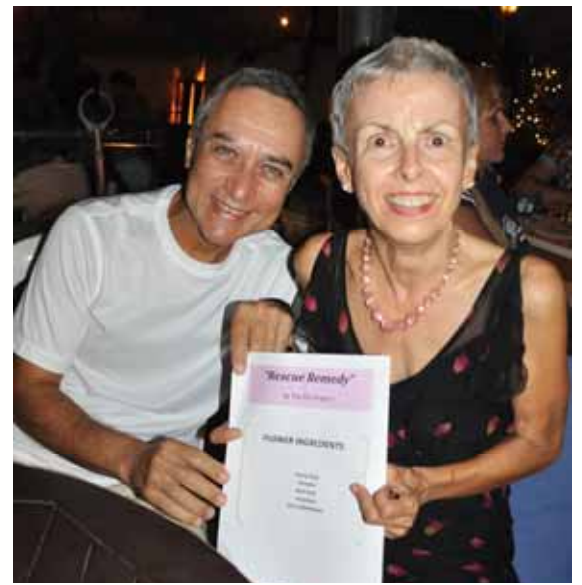
Rescue Remedy is a natural medicine made from flowers. It was invented in England by a physician named Dr. Edward Bach, who intended to relieve psychological suffering of people. That was in 1935. Since those years, people have used Bach remedies and shared it with pets. Yes! This is safe for people as well as pets.

This year Rescue Remedy will be available for pet owners to help their animal companions through the New Year, thanks to The Pet Project and Ella van Ostrom.

Follow simple instructions on the label. The cost of \$3 benefits the Animal Shelter. You may pick up Rescue Remedy at the Animal Shelter on Kaminda Lagoen. Just 4 Pet also has it. Look for the shop on Kaya Industria, across from Rocargo, open 9AM- 6PM.

If you have more questions about Rescue Remedy, email fhummingbird@yahoo.com. ■ *Florence Ditlow*

Florence Ditlow is a Registered Nurse, an herbalist certified in the use of Bach Remedies through the Bach Center.



Florence with husband Genady Filkovsky at the Bonaire Animal Shelter Dinner-Auction

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