

**It's Still  
FREE**

**BONAIRE** Feb. 24- Mar. 10, 2014 - Year 21, Issue 5  
**The REPORTER**  
**BES Island News Too**

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# Flotsam and Jetsam

## BONAIRE The REPORTER

People in Bonaire showed support for Venezuela's struggle for democracy and freedom from President Maduro's rule in a Saturday demonstration, called "SOS Venezuela."

On February 22, at 12.30 pm, a group of people of all nationalities came together at Plaza Wilhelmina. Together with another 150 cities in countries around the world – from Australia to Sweden and everywhere in between – they gave a voice to the Venezuelans who are living under censorship, aggression and a violence never seen before.

The unprecedented crisis of insecurity, shortage of food and basic necessities, the violation of human rights and the right to information and freedom of speech, the militarization of the public administration, the lack of division of public authorities in the country, deficiencies in education and public health and recently the detention and arbitrary persecution of Venezuelans who oppose the national government's way of thinking, have made hundreds of thousands of youngsters,



students and citizens take to the streets to march peacefully. These protests were met by repression of all kinds by the state's security and Cuban forces, and so far six innocent protesters have been killed and more than 200 people were wounded by pellets, tear gas and even bullets.

The Bonairean solidarity action was organized in less than 24 hours by Junior Bravo and

was meant to draw attention of the national and international press, to spread the word about the horrible and hopeless situation in which the Venezuelans find themselves and to share the images that go around on the internet, so that people who cannot speak for themselves because they are suppressed and silenced will have a voice through others. ■  
Story & photo by Greta Kooistra

Considering the high cost of living in Bonaire and the relatively low wages, a new report confirmed what many have already been saying for a while: a large part of the people in Bonaire is living in poverty and that costs for basics are skyrocketing on the island.

The increasing prices since Bonaire became a Dutch public entity on October 10, 2010, have made things worse. See the sidebar on page 3 for more details of the NIBUD report.

Members of Parliament want the Cabinet to send the report to the Second Chamber along with a reaction from the government. The report painted a far more serious picture than the Dutch Government did in December last year when it stated that "poverty was a daily reality for many inhabitants of the Caribbean Netherlands."

Bonaire will have a "Hall of Fame" for famous sportsmen and sportswomen. The Island Council will soon appoint a preparatory committee to arrange this.

During the past years, the athletes of Bonaire have performed extremely well abroad. Recent examples of such are Kiri Thodé and Amado Vrieswijk, who won windsurfing world titles in the "Freestyle" category. Also, brothers, Tonky and Taty Frans, who established their names in this sport at the highest level, should be mentioned, and years ago, Patun Saragosa became the first Olympic participant for

Bonaire with the games in Barcelona, Spain, and then Atlanta, Georgia.

Commissioner Hans Els and the Executive Council decided recently to appoint a preparatory committee consisting of people with a thorough knowledge of the island's sports scene. Els proposed Aubrey F. Sealy, Magno "Ibi" Piar, Herbert Cecilia, Alexander Santana, and Adele Evertsz-Winklaar as members.

Inselair stopped its flights to and from Venezuela. The reason for this decision was the current political situation in the South American country and an accumulated debt amounting to several million dollars. According to the airline, the aircraft used for the Curaçao-Venezuela route will fly to other destinations. The company pointed out that the Venezuelan government had promised several times to settle the outstanding debt, but so far not a single penny has come from Caracas.

A report in the *El Universal* newspaper says that German cruise line, AIDA Cruises, announced the suspension of its two next port calls on Margarita Island, Venezuela. Last week a 76-year-old passenger was shot and killed while ashore on an excursion from the *Aida Luna* cruise ship.

Transit passengers on flights to destinations in the US will be allowed to carry duty-free liquids, aerosols and gels (LAGs) over 3.4 ounces in weight as carry

-on items became effective Friday, January 31, 2014.

This allowance in effect is based on TSA Security Directive #1544-14-01. These LAGs, however, must be transported in the sealed International Civil Aviation Organization-approved bags, also referred to as Security Tamper Evident Bags (STEBs).



If you are travelling from The Netherlands to Bonaire you will find it is no longer possible to buy tax free at Schiphol. Shops were instructed to deny people with boarding passes showing Bonaire as a destination tax free purchases.

THE HAGUE—Companies are breaking the law in asking customers for a copy of their passport, the Dutch privacy watchdog warned. Handing over a photocopy of a passport or any other proof of identity can be an aid to identity theft, Dutch Data Protection Authority CBP said

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### How to contact us

Find Bonaire Reporter on Facebook. Press "Like"

The Publisher: George DeSalvo  
George@bonairenews.com  
Phone 786-6125

The Editor: Laura DeSalvo  
Laura@bonairenews.com  
Phone 786-6518

Box 407, Bonaire,  
Dutch Caribbean  
Story tip or idea:  
info@bonairenews.com  
Phone 786-6518

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*Flotsam and Jetsam* (Continued from page 2) after investigations

For example, in some cases people were requested to provide a copy of their ID when signing up for an event or a club. "Of course companies can check if people are who they say there are," watchdog spokesman Wilbert Tomesen said. "But piles of passport photocopies are an invitation to identity fraud."

Many companies are not aware that making copies of passports and ID cards is an illegal practice, with only a few exceptions, CBP said.

► **LONDON, England—The Caribbean was again warned that it is at risk from a mega-tsunami** that scientists warn could devastate coastlines from Florida to Brazil following a volcanic eruption of Cumbre Vieja in the Canary Islands. The monster wave generated by part of a mountain collapsing into the sea would be the biggest ever recorded and would be an unstoppable force, travelling at speeds of up to 500mph.

► **At 3 am on Valentine's Day Bonaire had its first traffic fatality of 2014** when a motorist, reported by police to be drunk, lost control of his car, which overturned, on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot near Harbour Village. The 20-year-old driver, who received light injuries, was arrested. The other occupant of the car was pronounced dead at the scene,

► **In a "surprise action" 143 vehicles were spot checked on Wednesday, February 12, by 11 policemen (KPCN) and six Marechaussee (KMAR) officers.** Traffic moving on Kaya Internashonal was selected and directed to the airport parking lot.

In total, the team KPCN and KMAR checked 143 vehicles. They uncovered 15 infractions: four vehicles with non-working brake lights, seven had no plate present, three drivers had no valid driver's license and two vehicles did not have working directional signals.

► **While the Caribbean welcomed more than 25 million stay-over visitors last year, many regional destinations managed to show only a 1.8% rise in tourist arrivals in 2013, a lot slower than the 4.9% rise in 2012.**

Cruise arrivals also saw wild fluctuations in 2013, with Grenada recording a near 22% decrease in passenger visits, while Curaçao welcomed more than 45% more than it did in 2012. There were nearly 22

million cruise passenger visits to the region.

► **Dutch workers have only 28 free days a year, including public holidays and statutory breaks,** the Dutch newspaper *De Telegraaf* reported on Tuesday, quoting consultancy group Mercer. This puts the Dutch at the bottom of a list of western European countries, the *Telegraaf* says. The Dutch do so badly because the country has only eight public holidays a year.

The Finns, by contrast, have 39 days off a year including 15 public holidays. Britain, the paper says, has the highest number of statutory days off at 28.

Nevertheless, the Netherlands does have a high number of part-time workers and many people get extra days off to cut their official working week. The BES Islands were not included in the report.

- See more at: [http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2014/02/the\\_dutch\\_have\\_fewer\\_holiday\\_d.php#sthash.aZZb0Ldm.dpuf](http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2014/02/the_dutch_have_fewer_holiday_d.php#sthash.aZZb0Ldm.dpuf)

► **The Reporter welcomes Jewel of Bonaire to its family of advertisers.** The small shop on Kaya Grandi is very popular with both locals and visitors. One of their specialties is custom made jewelry like the Mask-Snorkel- Fin bead shown below with fins and "Bonaire" inscribed on one end. It is finely hand crafted from .925 Sterling Silver and compatible with "Pandora," "Troll" and "Camilla" style bracelets and necklaces.

► **Enjoy Karnaval time.** Remember, to tell the stores you shop and the restaurants you frequent to advertise in *The Bonaire Reporter*. The ads keep the newspaper "Still Free." ■ *G.D./L.D.*



**NIBUD, the respected Dutch National Institute for Budget Information** was commissioned by the local government to determine minimum budgets for living in Bonaire. In a detailed report NIBUD shows that many Bonairean people don't make enough money to live decently.

NIBUD provided detailed minimum budgets for the family situations listed below:

Single Man:	\$1,462
Single Woman:	\$1,472
Cohabiting Couple:	\$1,926
Single Mother With One Child:	\$1,864
Single Mother With Two Children:	\$2,269
Couple With One Child:	\$2,291
Couple With Two Children:	\$2,863
Single AOV (Retirement):	\$1,451
Couple AOV:	\$1,853

According to the table above, a single woman, for example, needs a salary of **\$1472** per month to survive. The minimum wage in Bonaire is **\$4.63 per hour**, that works out to a monthly wage (40 hours/week) of **\$814.88**. That means that a single woman who receives that minimum wage is **\$657.12 below** what subsistence living requires.

The situation for retired people is even worse. Bonaire's maximum government pension payment is **\$577 per month**. That's **\$874 less** than it take to live on the subsistence level NIBUD calculates at

**\$1451** per month. Astoundingly, retirees need 2.5 times more if NIBUD is correct.

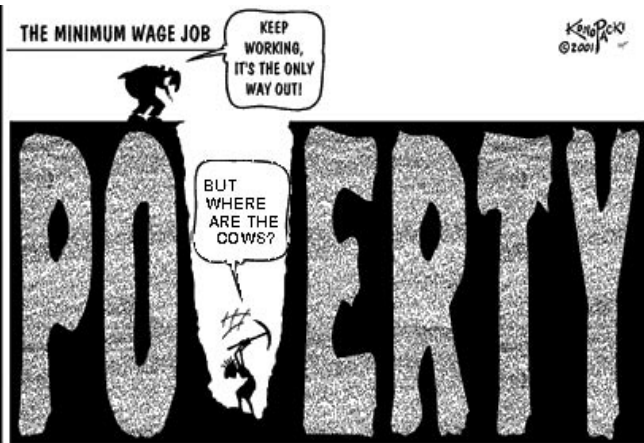
Compare that to the adult minimum wage in European Holland, **\$88.80** per day (€64.55) for full time work. Working an eight-hour day earns a wage of **\$2043.74** a month (€1,485.60).

A common "target" for the minimum wage is **50%** of the average income. (Note: \$1 = €1.38)

However, according to published figures, the average income of a working European Dutch person is a lot more, about **€2917** per month. Because of Social Support even non-working people get **€875** per month.

Initially a faction on the Bonaire Island Council wanted to table the NIBUD report for further study, but it was leaked to the press. The government finally has been provided with objective figures. Its intention is to discuss what to do next.

In The Netherlands the minimum wage is currently **€1,485.60/month** ■ *G.D.*



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# Born on Bonaire... January 9th, 1967 – Daisy Coffie

“I am the oldest of four girls and both my parents are still alive. All four of us went to Holland for a long period of time to study and work. One sister is living there now. I had a wonderful childhood. We grew up with a mother who quit working to be there for us. She went with us to swimming lessons, to all our sports activities and competitions and she was always there to cheer and to motivate us.

On the weekends we would go to our grandparents' kunuku at Playa Grandi, next to Washington Park. It was an active kunuku where they grew corn, watermelon, pumpkins, goats, pigs and chickens. My grandparents lived off their land. All our cousins would be there too and we had a ball. We played and swam in the dam – which was prohibited as the parents thought it was dangerous – and each of us had our 'own' tree and that was your house. With rocks you made a floor plan, like this was the kitchen and that was the bedroom and you also took care of that tree. And what we all had in our little house was a 'fogon' – three stones to cook on. Of course it wasn't allowed because it was dangerous to make a fire, but we would 'steal' a skillet and some oil from my grandma's kitchen, then we would gather some firewood and dry leaves and snatch some eggs from the chickens and then we would fry them. It was so much fun.

Our parents would help the grandparents with the work while we were playing, but in the afternoon all of us had to help. We'd gather wood, get water at the well, feed the pigs. There was no running water and no electricity. My grandparents' eldest daughter – she is still alive, 90 years old – would cook for all of us, and when dinner was ready she would call us by name to come and get the food and then we would take the plate in our hands and look for a place to sit. There was never enough space at the table, there were so many of us!

All that is gone; it doesn't exist anymore – a great pity. We still go to the kunuku, but just to relax. My son Ian, who is 10, is very good at playing in the bush, and that in itself is quite an achievement nowadays. He also swims a lot behind the house in what we call 'our backyard,' the sea, and he goes skateboarding and biking on the boulevard.

Well, I finished Havo 3 here and then I went to the Maria Immaculata Lyceum on Curaçao. From there I was going to study in Holland as I wanted to become a certified interpreter/translator, but because there were too many applications for the study that year I couldn't get in. Then a Dutch ambassador conference was planned to take place on Bonaire and I was asked by the government's secretary to help them out because of my talent for languages. And so I entered the service of the island territory as the protocol officer. It was a challenge; I was only 18.

I worked for six years in that position and during that time I also got married. When I was 25 I thought it was time for a change. I'd been travelling frequently for all these years and my husband was always on the go for his work, so we didn't see much of each other. I didn't want an



Daisy Coffie at home



The whole family in 'their backyard.' Left to right: Daisy's little niece Evanthe Coffie, Daisy and her son Ian and her partner Evo Cicilia

office job, and it had to be something really challenging, so I decided to become a speech therapist. There were various kinds of problem areas with different ages and workplaces and... there was no speech therapist on Bonaire. However, I had to go to Holland to study. Ultimately the marriage ended but I did finish my studies. I worked for one year in Holland and then I felt it was time to move on.

In 1997 I returned to Bonaire and opened my practice, 'Talkativeness and Talk-Activities, a multidiscipline center,' T&TMC for short. I also gave speech therapy care on St. Martin and I'm still doing so.

**"In my opinion education is a priority because with well-educated people you can build a country ..."**

At one time the practice had three locations and four speech therapists. It was running perfectly, but because of the budgets of the Netherland's Antilles, the island government and SVB, we had to cut back to one location and two speech therapists.

From 2003-2004 I lived and worked as a speech therapist in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. I'd done my bilingual studies in Holland – Dutch and English – and because a lot of Spanish is spoken here, close to Papiamentu, I increased my Spanish, and now I am employable in four languages, which is not very common.

My son Ian was born in Santo Domingo in 2003 when I lived with his dad who was a professional baseball player. Because of a totally different view on culture and upbringing I decided after a year to bring my child back to Bonaire and do it alone. Well, he did have a nanny, and my parents have always been there for us. It was a deliberate choice to raise him by myself. I never thought, 'he's 50% his dad and 50% mine.' The way I feel it he's 150% mine! Hahaha! I gave birth to him,

so he is my responsibility. But of course he has a dad and they talk on the phone every day, and twice a year we visit him in Santo Domingo, and once a year his dad comes to Bonaire. Ian grew up this way and he doesn't know another system.

In 2004 I started after-school care. That was the beginning of a multi-discipline center which I set up with Steven Ebecilio, a neuro-psychologist. I was still working as a speech therapist and meanwhile I specialized as a hearing-akoepedist – everything that has to do with hearing.

In my free time I took the teacher training program to become a Dutch language teacher. From 2004-2008 I taught Dutch at SGB high school. Also, between 2004 and now I've done various modules in the field of pedagogy, education, sociology and child psychology.

I am a free spirited person and I love my independence, but in 2008 I decided to live with Evo Cicilia. Luckily he's still around, otherwise this story would look like the portrait of a man-eater! Hahaha! It took some getting used to for Ian and me, but it is fun to have someone else with us, who also brings in other topics. Evo is Ian's friend and fortunately they get on well together. He does the boy things with Ian like playing soccer and fishing and that's very good, because only to touch a fish gives me the creeps. Luckily Evo values me for who I am and I feel the same about him.

In 2009 I moved to Boulevard Gobernador Debrot and took the after-school care with me. The house is huge and therefore we can keep it completely separated. We have two classrooms, a recrea-

tion room and separate bathrooms. We provide homework assistance and a number of activities under the guidance of teachers and teacher assistants. If necessary we get support from the multi-discipline team. Whenever possible we work together with EOZ (Expertise Centre for Educational Care) and with schools that are open to it. We also have swimming lessons and dance classes and we do sports as well. It has to be fun for the children. With us everything revolves around the child. Our offices – the speech therapists, the psychologist, the child psychologist, the remedial specialist, the autism specialist and the pedagogue- are located at Number 40.

In 2010/2011 I worked as process supervisor for OCW (the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science), setting up the Expertise Center Educational Care Bonaire. When the contract finished I started giving speech therapy at the schools on Saba for one year, but when I found someone to replace me I focused on St. Eustatius. I still go there every other week. Also I work twice a month for two days on St. Martin.

I do so many things: I am with Toastmasters International, I am the president of the Church Council of the United Protestant Church of Bonaire, I love to travel and to read and to listen to nice music.

The way I see it is that Bonaire is still in a developing stage – we are in a process and I think that it is important to make the right choices so that the right developments may be carried out.

In my opinion education is a priority because with well-educated people you can build a country.

Mandela said it very beautifully, 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.' I think that's a very wise quote."

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



# Fish Eye Photo's Leap Of Faith

A BRAND NEW BUILDING, PHOTO STUDIO AND SHOP



Fish Eye Photo's Tim and Annet in their new building

"I love to talk about my profession; it's my hobby, my job and my passion – there's nothing I like better! We get a lot of people in who come with a question and most of the time they end up sharing their stories with me and I don't mind because this is a Caribbean island with a different pace – people take their time. Photography to me – and I might be a little bit orthodox – is a métier. It is comprehensive and certainly not just about 'taking a picture.' It's a combination of techniques. You need to have the knowledge of the material - and creativity. It's a challenge, because it's never boring and always different. The diversity makes it interesting and so much fun. And in my case, when you also run a photo shop, you must have the ability to explain it to others in an understandable way and... you have to make a profitable business."

Talking is Tim Peters, who, with his wife Annet, is the proud owner of the brand new Fish Eye Photo building at Boulevard Gobernador N. Debrot 18A, across from the Elegancia building.

"I came to live on the island in 1996. My background was professional photography, but on Bonaire I first worked as a cook, then as a dive instructor and next as a photo instructor, teaching underwater photography. In 2002 I started Fish Eye Photo in a shipping container I'd rented from Bonaire Dive & Adventure on the property of the old Den Laman Restaurant. In 2005 the new Den Laman apartment complex was built and we rented a unit in the new building. It was a big improvement, but in 2009/2010 we got the idea of moving to a better and bigger location where we could also have a photo studio.

I was really shocked when I found out that rental fees were extremely high. I came to the conclusion that it would be better to build something ourselves. I found this property- just a lot of *mondi*, a container and a fence – not too big either and... it was affordable. Then I had to make a budget for the purchase of the land and the construction of the building and – most importantly - we had to see if we could get a loan. We were very lucky to get one. We started building in May 2012 and the first week of July 2013 we moved to this location.



The new Fish Eye Photo building, shop and studio at Boulevard Gobernador N. Debrot 18A

We also added an upper floor office apartment which has been rented recently to Sotheby's Realty.

As well as underwater photography I've started to concentrate on aerial photography, weddings and real estate. I'm always trying to improve myself and step up to even higher quality. If you don't do that, that's the end of the story – then you should do something else.

Our studio is something we've wanted for a long time. Making portraits adds a whole new dimension to the work. We do everything: children, couples, parents, newborn babies, Latin girls who celebrate their 15th birthday, Holy Communion photos, grandparents, families, dogs and cats and other pets – you name it. The other day a gentleman came in with his dog and he wanted a real good photo of himself and the dog that was quite old as an everlasting memory.

We really want to stand out as a local photo store, where everyone - tourists and people who live here - can come to choose from a variety of photo equipment or ask for advice or explanation or to have their photo taken. The thing is, we know what we are selling and we know how it works.

Annet and I took a challenge and a risk by building the new shop and studio, but it's been so worth it. Since the first of January we've worked together in the business. It's lots of fun and we would love to do it for years to come, because what's more beautiful than making your passion come true together with your wife. I would have never dreamt it, but let me tell you: 'Don't ever stop dreaming, because dreams do come true!'" ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra

HAVE YOU SEEN ME? DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?



## FREE SEMINARS ON REEF FISH IDENTIFICATION - Everyone is Welcome

Monday evenings March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at C.I.E.E.

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7:00- 8:30 pm

March 3 First 50 fish (novice level 2)

March 10 Second 50 fish (novice level 3, part 1)

March 17 Third 50 fish (novice level 3, part 2)

March 24 Special Bonaire fish

That's a lot of fish (FREE)! Sessions are led by visiting REEF expert fish id'er Kim White, and are for anyone who wants to understand more about what they are seeing when diving and snorkeling, or anyone who just wants to look at some nice underwater pictures and video clips. Attend any or all sessions to learn what's really going on underwater; it will enrich your diving experience.



Date: March 9<sup>th</sup> 2014

Start: 05.00 am at the "White Slave Huts"

Finish: Pasa Dia Kariño, Rincon

Price: \$ 15,- per person

T-shirt pick-up: Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 5 PM – 7 PM

Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM – 4 PM

at El Mundo (Kaya Grandi)

There will be a water station with healthy snacks and water every 5 km (approx. 3 miles). Food and drinks at the Finish line for all participants. Lunch will be served at Pasadia Kariño Rincon from 9.30 AM till 1.30 PM.

Everybody may join us. No matter how: walking, running, cycling the whole 30 km or part of it.

All proceeds will go to Special Olympics Bonaire.

Tickets are available from Board members and coaches of Special Olympics Bonaire.



MADURO & CUIEL'S BANK (BONAIRE) N.V.



# 12° Latitude- Winter

Part 11 of the series, *Down in The Land of Bon Bini*

Bonaire is just a coco palm or two above 12 degrees latitude in the southern Caribbean Sea. Spin the globe around on that west/east line and you will run into Managua, Nicaragua; the Pacific's Bikini Atoll; Bien Hoa, Vietnam; Djibouti, the tiny Horn of Africa republic; and Grenada, the island of the spices. But most of what lies beneath that latitude is ocean blue.

It never freezes at 12-Lat. The lowest temperatures that I have felt on Bonaire to date were the low 70s (21°C). It hasn't gone above the mid 90s (35°C) on the high end. This Fahrenheit groove provides comfortable, warm weather all the time. Clothes are minimal. And with the trade winds, air conditioning is not necessary. Complaining about the weather here is simply inexcusable.

"Yeah, but you will miss the seasons." So said some of my friends and colleagues as I prepared to depart Washington DC in 2007. I was confident that I



Morning rainbow visits Klein Bonaire

could make the change. As my spouse and I sip champagne in celebration to the start of our seventh year on island, I think about that life we left behind. We spent four cold winters in the USA's capital before fleeing. I remember leaving our townhouse along the Potomac River at 5:50am to start my commute from Alexandria to work. The wind would whip over the water and make my bones ache. From L'Enfant metro station a half hour later, I would walk to my office located on the Washington shore of the Potomac. Inextricably, the wind had clocked around 180° hitting me face on. Pulling the long, wool overcoat tight, I would trudge on and dream about my future home, down island on

Bonaire. That helped keep the flame going.

The Weather Channel still reminds me of that cold foolishness up north, *A fierce winter storm blew in from the Pacific, bringing up to 2 feet of snow, icy wind and a nightmare for holiday travelers already stymied by winter's dance across the northern half of the country.* On Bonaire, however, we are not encumbered by such weather wrath. Rather, we are in the beginning of the *soft* season. The autumn rains begin to lessen. Winds, while strong, are steady. The sun is slanted at an angle now, reduced from a summer blaze to comfortable warmth. This is what living in the tropics

is all about.

Since landing here my forays into the upper latitudes above 12-Lat have been severely limited.



In Havana

On December a couple of years ago I found myself on the streets of Havana inadequately clothed and shivering in low 60s (17°C) temps caused by a deep dipping Arctic Clipper. A few Christmases ago, I saw ice on the windshield in southern Florida—bad news for the orange farmers there and not very good for me either. But for the rest, I have pretty much stayed sensibly south.

I know. You probably think I am a wimp. That is certainly true for my Canadian friends who

have spent a winter in Fort McMurray, Alberta, braving (is that the correct word?) minus 40 degrees temperatures! I accept my moniker. But before you judge too strongly, I did grow up in Cleveland, Ohio USA, known for its fierce winds that caused the dreaded "lake effect" of Lake Erie. This was back in the day of "real" winters when 3-foot high drifts were common. No ground was to be seen for months due to the blanket of snow. That is not even taking into consideration the snow-to-slush-snow cycles and the frequent tree-cracking ice storms. Yeah, I am a wimp, but a clever one. I escaped, abandoned ship, pulled up anchor. Now I am happily stranded on a sandbar.

Twelve-Lat winter is also the time of year when Bonaireans really show their generous nature. As Christmas approaches, stores give small gifts to regular customers at the cash register. Ruth at Playa Trading, the building supplies store, gives me a nifty baseball cap with their company logo on the front. I even get a choice of colors opting for the navy blue over the gray. A cashier at Warehouse Bonaire surprises me with a plastic drinking cup adorned with color photos of the island—a pink flamingo, a

(Continued on page 7)

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Traffic Circle Christmas tree

palm tree-studded sunset, and a grand stairway of an old *landhuis*. My friend Myra at Boomerang Hardware awards me with two pens. Written on the sides of each is, *Pasa un dushi dia*. "Have a Nice Day."

And I do. Those skeptics in Washington DC were wrong. Twelve-Lat does have "seasons." Things change this time of year and we, as islanders, need to make drastic life adjustments. The sun bends low in the morning these days to where my east-facing bamboo shade needs to be dropped for comfortable hammock time. Daytime temperatures mostly reach in the mid-80s with strong North-east trade winds. My, my. That is perfect to the skin and the soul. But this time of year also brings celestial events that are cause for awe. It is right after New Years when the Southern Cross, that south-of-the-equator star sensation, begins to make its encore. Early evenings, I lay on a shoreside dock with my dog,

Sparky, and listen to the sea in the darkness. I spot the famous, four-cornered cross constellation rising like a celestial kite above the horizon where Venezuela lies. Clocking around 180 degrees, I find the Big Dipper upside down, pouring out its cosmic soul to Bonaire below. The wind gusts. Halyards clank metal to mast. A shooting star lives and dies above, silently. One season has ended. Another has begun. These are the time passages on my tiny speck of land in middle of the blue Caribbean.



Tamaika moored

The next day I am out sailing and I pass *Tamaika*, Les's beautiful restored boat-complete with a new, oversized pirate flag. I wave to the proud skipper. He waves back. I point to the new Jolly Roger and give him the thumbs up. He points to his two kids at the bow. I flash the OK sign. A small morning shower brings a brilliant rainbow to start the day. Ah, yes. Twelve-Lat winter. That is my kind of season. ■

Story & photos by Patrick Holian



## DID YOU KNOW?

That seahorse tails are abnormally strong? Seahorse tails are strong and springy and allow seahorses to escape from predators and to catch prey. The unique shape of the bones in seahorses' tails compress against surfaces and eject seahorses at a rate fast enough to escape from something that is trying to eat them or catch their lunch. Seahorse tails are so powerful because they are made of overlapping circular bone plates. When the bone plates compress against a surface, they slide against each other, allowing the tail to shrink to about 50% of its normal size without harm to the seahorse! This strength is due to the fact that the bony plates are hard on the outside and soft on the inside, allowing them to be strong but flexible.



Seahorse tails have a bone structure that is so strong that it is currently being studied by scientists and engineers. The physical structure of the seahorse tail is so sturdy that it could potentially make a new strong armor for soldiers. Proof that nature has the best designs. ■ Mackenzie Mason

Mason is a Biology major with a Marine Biology option from Oregon State University in Oregon. She studied on Bonaire for the fall semester with CIEE research station.



# Bonaire Coalition Splitting?

In a statement early last week, the Deputies (sometimes called Commissioners when referring to the portfolios they hold) of the Bonaire Executive Council distanced themselves from the report issued last month that was critical of WEB, Bonaire's water and electricity supply company. The report was prepared by SEO Economic Research which is affiliated with the University of Amsterdam which carries out independent applied economic research on behalf of the public and private sectors. The work was commissioned by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Bonaire Governor Lydia Emerencia.

In a public comment the Governor Emerencia called the report "actual, proper and responsible." It had been forwarded to the Bonaire Public Prosecutor earlier.

The Deputies qualified the response of the Governor as "one-sided and biased." "After all, the Governor is co-sponsor of this report and therefore she cannot be objective." "The Governor also lacks any technical qualification to review this report on content."

The Deputies added that such a weighty report of paramount importance, which could result in drastic consequences, should be based on sound facts and objectively determined. Because SEO researchers themselves state in their report that it is based on "limited and incomplete information," the Executive Council wants a review of the main factual findings by an independent and objective expert external to the SEO.

Currently two of the Deputies on the Council are new (Els and Winklaar) and were not part of the WEB arrangements but are getting dragged into it.

However, at the end of the week Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs Henk Kamp requested another investigation, this time by the Dutch Government Prosecutor (*Landsadvokaat*) into the alleged irregularities at WEB. A second audit, possibly with the help of forensic specialists, will be done. The Bonaire Deputies will get what they asked, another investigation.

The SEO report, which has been downplayed and criticized by Bonaire's coalition parties, was initiated by Bonaire's Island Governor, because, as Kamp put it, she had "suspicions that a number of things were not in order" in the decision making process to upgrade Bonaire's power plant. An investment amount of US \$10 million could not be accounted for.

This and other developments are causing Bonaire's governing coalition to become even more unstable. There was a breach of confidence between Union Patriótico Boneriano (UPB) and the one-man Island Council faction of Rafael Santana. Santana convened an emergency press conference together with his commissioner Hans Els to express their discontentment on the relationship with the UPB, *Caribisch Netwerk* reported.

The coalition partners also continue at loggerheads with one another about the date for a constitutional referendum on the future of Bonaire. In another instance, during a study group meeting on health care, Els was given a two-page document which he had to sign immediately, according to the UPB. It was regarding the inquiry on improper governance regarding the privatization of WEB.

Els refused to sign without having read or studied the contents. Later on he learned that the complete document was 46 pages long while he was only given two pages. "That's manipulation," Els said.

That same day the UPB supposedly violated other agreements by publishing data on minimum monthly amounts that people in various family situations need (see page 3). ■ G.D.



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# Grocery Shopping

**G**rocery shopping on Bonaire is 44% more expensive than in The Netherlands, while the minimum wage is less than half. Two reporters shopped for 24 basic products such as bread, chicken, rice, milk, tomatoes, cheese, toilet paper and soap in The Netherlands and Bonaire. They went to four supermarkets.

In The Netherlands they went to an Albert Heijn and on Bonaire to Van den Tweel Supermarket, which are comparable. Since both these supermarkets are somewhat upscale they also shopped at price fighter Lidl in The Netherlands and at the Wing Cheung Chinese-owned supermarket, choosing the less expensive variant of a desired item.

The list of 24 items cost \$53.01 at Lidl, at Albert Heijn, \$64.05.

On Bonaire, Wing Cheung charged \$76.46 for the same products. Van den Tweel Supermarket was the most expensive at \$78.89.

Unkobon, the Bonaire Consumers' Union, tried to explain the difference. For one thing, the ABB sales reduction of last year was not passed on completely to consumers.

Unkobon further points to the increased collective burden\* of the community and lack of competition. More than half of retail food sales is said to be in the hands of the van den Tweel Bonaire Food Group.

Unkobon also wants the Dutch Government to keep its word to not increase taxes and premiums.

Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations Ronald Plasterk seems out of touch with the situation on Bonaire. He mentioned that the high cost levels on Bonaire are compensated for by the annual



indexation of wages. But except for the small AOV increments for retirees, almost no workers on Bonaire have wage agreements that include indexing.

Plasterk said the increases are due to the worldwide increase in costs for energy, materials and food.

At the end of last week the Dutch Government said it does not plan to expand the list of products that are exempt from the ABB general sales tax in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.

The ABB, which is a Dutch national tax, is expected to yield €26.7 million in 2014 on the three islands combined. Incidentally, it is estimated to cost the Tax Service about €9 million to collect the taxes on the islands. ■ *Belkis Osepa and Jamila Baaziz of "Caribisch Netwerk"*

\*Collective burden is a concept which can be described (in macroeconomic terms) as all general taxation revenues, social security contributions and other-tax-like income, expressed as a percentage of net national income at market prices.

# Official Opening of Bondigro Supermarket

Bonaire/Kralendijk – On Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> the official opening of Bondigro's low budget supermarket was held, with plenty of snacks, drinks and music. A huge number of Bonairean citizens visited the happening which took place between 10 am and 4 pm.

Roland, Carla, Philippe, Maria, Susy, Charlotte and Oscar are very proud of their new enterprise. Roland says, "Our goal has always been to supply a range of basic products for a basic price to the people on Bonaire. And since the first day we were open, Friday, December 6th, our idea and formula appears to be very successful. The clients are surprised by the very low prices. On a regular basis our customers grab their cell phones to inform family, friends and neighbors. In less than no time they show up and leave the shop with a filled shopping trolley. In January I even had a kind of a headache because of the problem of keeping the shop stocked as the public bought almost everything. All products are too cheap to resist buying."

"We extended our opening hours," Carla says. "Now we are open every day from 7:30am-1pm. On Tuesday and Friday we open from 4 to 7pm. On these two days there is always a new supply of fresh fruit and vegetables. In fact all products



Market workers: Roland, Suzy, Carla, Maria

sell fast: the fresh items, soft drinks, cleaning products, dog food. Yes, all products sell fast!"

A customer reports, "This week I was at NAPA, the store next to Budget Marine, where they sell car parts and products. Even there Bondigro was the subject of conversation. They said Bondigro is the "supermercado del pueblo" where you could fill your trolley for less than \$80. Go on, Bondigro, the people from our island need you!" ■ *Story & photo by Jan Brouwer*



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# Save the Plantation



Some time ago I came into contact with Lula Bernabela, a very active Bonairean lady, who rented the last working plantation on Bonaire from the Island Government, Plantation Amboina, opposite the WEB Nobo office (*ed.:behind the Beatrix School*).

Today I learned that this very fertile piece of land with all the old trees will be destroyed for a ball park, football fields and tennis courts. Of course these sport fields are in the interest of Bonaireans, but the football field next to the WEB Nobo office is hardly in use and is only frequented by dogs and donkeys. So there is reason to

suppose that all these new sport fields are not exactly needed—and to be placed on one of the most fertile piece of Bonaire.

This is a very sorrowful situation, and action needs to be taken against this happening. Lula has been working on this plantation on her own for more than 10 years now and slowly she's gained a lot of interest and supporters. Also this plantation has one of the oldest *magasinas* (warehouses) which is still in use. All in all this is a remarkable piece of Bonairean history and it's about to be destroyed. ■ *Ronald Gravesteijn*



We were stunned to hear about the death of Albert Bianculli. We consider him a friend on Bonaire, AND a friend of Bonaire.

We believe his projects will make a difference in the quality of the ocean and therefore in the quality of lives on Bonaire. We can only hope there is someone else who may be able to step forward to continue the excellent work Albert started.

Thank you for the article about Albert in *The Bonaire Reporter*. Perhaps this will help promote the cause to protect Bonaire's waters and reefs. We will continue to do our small part to clean beaches where we dive, and remove debris, especially fishing line, from dive sites.

We very much enjoy reading *The Bonaire Reporter*, especially during our months away from Bonaire. We love your island and its peoples.

*Donna Kramer and Tom Wood  
Salt Lake City, Utah, USA*

Funeral services for Albert Bianculli were conducted on Monday, February 10, at Consuelo Memorial. Ms. Kramer placed a relic from the *Windjammer* wreck in the coffin. It was once Albert's favorite dive. Burial was later that afternoon at the nearby *Nos Sosiegu*. Cemetery. Ed.



## TRIBUTE TO ALBERT

Dear Editor:  
My husband and I have dive vacations in Bonaire each year. In two weeks we are returning to Bonaire for a month.

## PRO ACTIVE POLICING

Dear Editor:

Douglas Hite, in the last edition of *The Reporter*, brought forward important points on crime all of which have been made many times before by many people. I do commend him for trying once more though.

For many years I have tried to get people to watch and understand an A&E TV

documentary called "Police." As with Douglas's point, this documentary also shows how proactive policing can stop crime in its tracks. Unfortunately it all falls on either deaf ears or a multitude of excuses of why it won't be done here on Bonaire.  
*A. Victim*



Yuchi's birthday is March 7. A very big Happy Birthday to **Yuchi Molina** of Rincon from us at *The Bonaire Reporter*. We hope she has a wonderful day and an even more wonderful year. For more years than we can count Yuchi has delivered *The Reporter* to places in Rincon. Thank you, Yuchi. You are a gem!

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## Art By Alejandra Riquelme at Buena Vista Optics



Els Madlener, Alejandra Riquelme, Nick Madlener

On Friday February 14<sup>th</sup> an art exposition was held in the cozy court of Buena Vista Optics on Kaya Grandi 32b, in the little alley between Best Pearls Bonaire and Gio's Ice Cream Parlor. Owners are Nick Madlener (optometrist) and his wife Els (optician). They've run their successful enterprise since December 2012.

For years and years Nick has been obsessed by a poster of the eye printed way back in history for American Optical, a very old all American company that started making custom eyeglasses in the early 1800s in Massachusetts.

Then the Madleners got in contact with Frank Eiking and his wife, Alejandra Riquelme. Riquelme is an artist with a Chilean/Dutch background.

She started painting as a young girl. Later, she went to the Academy of Arts in Belgium where she kept discovering and developing her own style. Nick and Els liked Alejandra's paintings so much that they asked her to create a painting for

them, inspired by the old American Optical poster of the eye.

Last Friday, in the courtyard of Buena Vista Optics the unveiling of the painting took place. The Madleners and the public were surprised by Riquelme's last creation, into which she put a lot of time, energy and emotion.

To get an impression of the work of this artist you can visit her website: [www.riquelme.nl](http://www.riquelme.nl) or visit facebook: [www.facebook.com/riquelmearts](http://www.facebook.com/riquelmearts). On the internet you can learn about her work and notice the development from more or less the copying of style to find her own way along her path of art.

The best way to get to know Alejandra Riquelme and her work is to visit her exposition at Lagoen Hill 36. Every third Sunday of the month the Kaminda di Arte is organized. Nice idea to start next month at her location. ■ *Story & photo by Jan Brouwer*

## Fishing Line Clean Up In Memory Of Albert Bianculli



Volunteer divers at Lac bay

Bonaire/Lac Bay -

For the first fishing line clean up dive since STCB volunteer Albert Bianculli passed away last January, STCB's Fishing Line Project decided to do a special memorial dive in his honor at Lac Bay, to remove the discarded fishing lines that can be deathtraps for sea turtles. Two thirds of Bonaire's sea turtles live in this area so keeping this site clean is very important.

Eighteen divers took part, with two volunteers on shore, also collecting fishing lines. A half sack full of fishing line was collected and it was a very enjoyable dive with sightings of turtles, lobsters, scorpion fish, green moray and large shoals of fish in the shallows.

Afterwards the volunteers were treated to refreshments from STCB and Carib Inn and once again free air was kindly provided by Dive Friends Bonaire. ■

*Story & photo by Jan Brouwer*



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# Parke Publico Reopens

Parke Publiko, closed for lack of funding, reopened on February 14th, Valentine's Day, with a brief renaming ceremony. After more than seven years of being supported by private donations grants it was able to reopen because of local government-provided structural financial support.

The Parke was re-named the Parke di Libertat, S. James Fines Park in honor of the man whose vision and persistence made it a reality. The playground has benches, a snack bar, shady spots and commercial park equipment certified by the US Olympic Association specially to stimulate academic and athletic ability in children.

The park, located behind the hospital is open 8am to 7pm, Monday through Saturday, with free entry to the public. You may rent a table to sell used items at the Saturday Flea Market for \$5. The canteen will be open Monday-Saturday 7:30am-7pm (with Wi-Fi), selling ice cream, homemade lemonade, burgers, wraps, frapuccino, coffee and more. If you can help and support either financially, by volunteering or in any way possible phone: Davika Bissessar – 786 4576 or James Finies 782 5664. ■ Press Release/



James Fines, Governor Lydia Emerencia, Vicky Bissessar and Deputy James Kroon



Some of the attendees at the opening. "The kids are happy, but so are the parents," one said.

# 2013 Picture Yourself Winners

## Sharella Coffi Jansen in London, England.

Sharella Coffi Jansen looks tiny next to the English guard, but she is the big winner in the annual Bonaire Reporter Picture Yourself Contest.

Sharella always travels with her Bonaire Reporter in order to take amazing pictures. She writes, "Here is a picture of me in London and of course with my Reporter in hand, being careful because the horse may kick."

Look for her accepting her prize in an upcoming edition of The Reporter. ■



The runner-up in the contest is Maggie Booi with herself, and husband Frans holding The Reporter with his daughter Lizbeth and his grandson Tristan during a great trip to New York City.

Congratulations to the winners and please keep the Picture Yourself photos coming - of yourself on a trip away from Bonaire. Photos are judged on quality, destination, timeliness and esthetics,

Picture Yourself continues to one of the most popular Reporter features. See this edition's submission on page 12. ■ G.D.



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# Word on the Street

**Rumor has it the 911 (emergency) center on Bonaire is seriously understaffed.** Stress levels are high, one person was sent to Curaçao for mental health therapy. Word is that at night there is only enough staff to have one person work the 911 number. Whoever is on that shift has to simultaneously talk to the 911 caller and call and talk to the appropriate response team (police, ambulance or fire department). Staff members who rotate on to that shift say it is impossible to do.



- **Venezuelan Foreign Minister Elias Jaua ordered the removal of all diplomatic staff from Aruba as well as Bonaire and Curaçao** The action is apparently in response to a Venezuelan national driving his SUV into the consulate building in Aruba at 4 am last Friday. At press time, sources indicate that the driver was drunk and no determination had yet been made if the incident was intentional or just drunk driving. The driver had just arrived on Aruba that day. Venezuela wants the man returned. There are also reports that there had been several days of peaceful protests in front of the consulate in Aruba.

- "I feel the earth move under my feet..."...**There have been at least five earthquakes in the last two weeks within 600 miles of Bonaire** that registered between 4.4 and 6.5 on the Richter Scale. The closest and most recent as of press time was on February 21, a 5.1 magnitude just 71 km. off Oranjestad, Aruba. On February 18, a 6.5 quake was recorded just off Barbados. The others have occurred in Colombia and Venezuela but still within that 600 mile radius. There was no tsunami reported.

- **Prosecutor Henry Hambeukers sent a clear message to robbers and burglars** that he is no longer playing games with them. He asked for a 13-year unconditional prison sentence for a 29-year-old convicted of a robbery and four burglaries. The evidence, including DNA evidence, was strong in all cases. Sentencing is set for February 26. We'll see if the judge agrees.

- Even though her tenure as Governor ends on 1 March, Sra. Lydia Emerencia is still feeling pressure from the UPB/Santana coalition whose vote of no confidence prompted her resignation. **Local media reports that Sra. Emerencia did not attend a weekly council meeting** because she felt threatened and intimidated by members of that coalition. In addition, the same coalition, which holds the majority votes, declined to agree to fund a farewell event for the public to say goodbye to the Governor. Apparently the local support for the Governor, evidenced by the large crowds who turned out in her support at meetings where the no confidence motion was supposed to be on the agenda, continues to be ignored by the "ruling" parties.

- **Christmas mail from overseas was finally getting delivered on Bonaire last week.** The responsibility for the snafu with the transition to Flamingo Express as the postal company for the Caribbean Netherlands lies with the former "concessionaire," the old Curaçao-owned post office operator ironically named Nieuw Post Netherlands Antilles (NPNA) -now rechristened Cpost International- operating on Curaçao, decided Dutch Minister of the Interior Ronald Plasterk. Flamingo Express did not offer all NPNA employees a job because there's less mail to be delivered. There was work on Saba for one of the two employees and on St. Eustatius for two of the four. On Bonaire there was work for nine of the 14 employees.

- **Lack of large and small propane tanks was again a problem** on island within the last week. Curoil blames it on Curaçao. Rumor from a local restaurateur reports that there is another entrepreneur who has been ready for some time to start a competing propane service but he is getting stalled on his permit for the *erfpacht* (long lease land) on which he will locate the business. ■ *Bula Bonchi*



## Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter Celebrating 20+ years of publishing

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# Picture Yourself Skiing In Damüls, Austria

Marylke and Ronald Prent write, "After taking *The Bonaire Reporter* with us to various holiday addresses we finally took a picture with it in Austria; to be more specific in the village Damüls where we went for a skiing holiday during Christmas. We've lived on Bonaire for almost four years so the temperature difference was huge and posing for the picture without a jacket was cold but the result looks nice :-). ■

*Ed. Nice shirts!*



## We Would Love to Print YOUR Photo!

Send to [info@bonairereporter.com](mailto:info@bonairereporter.com)

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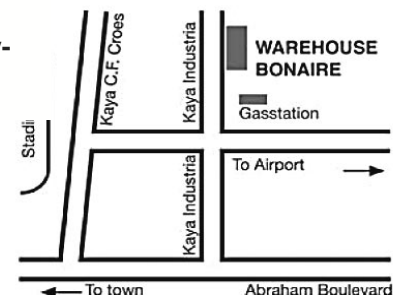
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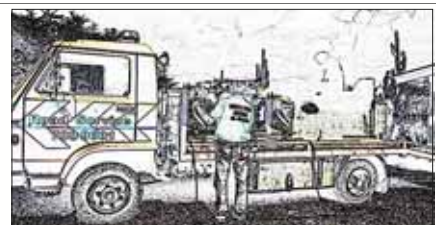
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aroo shade sails**. Desert sand color. 16 foot  
triangle shape. Never used as wrong size.  
\$100 each. Call for more info. 717-6862

For Sale: **YANMAR marine diesel en-  
gine**. Less than 200 hours. Includes gas  
tank and more. From 32 ft sailboat. 20GM  
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**YAMAHA 25HP OUTBOARD**. New,  
4-stroke, 20-inch shaft. Won't fit our small  
boat. Cost \$3,500. \$2,500/best offer. 785-  
2255. [2bonaire@gmail.com](mailto:2bonaire@gmail.com)

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for more info.

**8'x10' ORIENTAL RUG & PAD;**  
**100% Wool;** Navy and Red Kashan style  
with border; **Excellent condition.** Call:  
717-7312 for price and viewing.

**For Sale: Inventory of SOLD 3 BR  
home:** furniture, appliances, kitchen things,  
bedding, etc. some fish'n,dive gear ,  
tools, years of visits many smalls. **Fri. 28th  
Feb. 11am to 5:pm.** Early or later by  
chance. **Kaya Saggitaro 2. Belnem** use  
1st rt. South off Van eps. 2nd left

For Sale: **Jeep Grand Cherokee,**  
2007, 3.7-V6, fully equipped, 100.000 km,  
\$13.500, [digitalis1956@hotmail.com](mailto:digitalis1956@hotmail.com),  
+599-796-3637.



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

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
<b>Mon 24</b>		01:30	08:07	16:16	20:43		
		-0.11 ft	0.97 ft	-0.17 ft	0.19 ft	6:53	18:44
<b>Tue 25</b>		02:21	08:55	17:02	21:38		
		-0.12 ft	0.97 ft	-0.18 ft	0.22 ft	6:53	18:44
<b>Wed 26</b>		03:17	09:46	17:49	22:38		
		04:22	10:41	18:38	23:43	6:52	18:44
<b>Thu 27</b>		05:38	11:40	19:27			
		-0.06 ft	0.86 ft	-0.17 ft	0.33 ft	6:52	18:44
<b>Fri 28</b>		00:50	07:04	12:46	20:16		
		-0.02 ft	0.75 ft	-0.15 ft		6:51	18:44
<b>Sat 01</b>		01:55	08:36	13:57	21:06		
		02:56	10:03	15:11	21:55		
<b>Sun 02</b>		03:52	11:20	16:22	22:43		
		04:44	12:25	17:26	23:29	6:51	18:45
<b>Mon 03</b>		05:33	13:22	18:23			
		06:00 ft	-0.03 ft	0.45 ft	-0.09 ft	6:50	18:45
<b>Tue 04</b>		07:04	14:13	19:14			
		07:56	15:00	20:00		6:50	18:45
<b>Wed 05</b>		08:52	15:45	20:42			
		09:35	16:28	21:24		6:50	18:45
<b>Thu 06</b>		10:23	17:14	22:10			
		11:05	18:00	22:55		6:49	18:45
<b>Fri 07</b>		11:52	18:45	23:40			
		12:34	19:27	24:25		6:49	18:45
<b>Sat 08</b>		13:20	20:12	25:10			
		14:01	20:57	25:55		6:48	18:45
<b>Sun 09</b>		14:46	21:42	26:40			
		15:25	22:27	27:25		6:48	18:45
<b>Mon 10</b>		16:07	23:02	28:10			
		16:44	23:42	28:55		6:47	18:45

For Sale: **Toyota Hilux Double Cabin  
Four Wheel Drive.** \$4500, [digitalis1956@hotmail.com](mailto:digitalis1956@hotmail.com), +599-796-3637.

**REAL ESTATE AND RENTALS**

**4 studio-apartments in Hato monthly  
rent \$459-520-650-565,** 1 month cancelling.  
Based on 1 person furnished all inclusive  
also use wifi tv, no airco. Or \$65 a day. Liv-  
ing/sleeping/cooking in the same room, own  
Kaya Utrecht 25, **Hato call 0599 780 1433  
or 796 2529** Extra person \$100. Within  
500m supermarket, beach, ATM, restaurants.

**Unfurnished House for rent at Belnem,** 2  
bedrooms, 1 bath, large kitchen living room,  
front and back porch, air conditioners, ceiling  
fans, garden with drip system, **lots of pri-  
vacy.** Rent price \$ 750 without utilities.  
Phone: 785-9900

**Wanted:** Mature, single, dog-loving, non-  
partying person to live in my large house in  
Belnem. Own bedroom, bathroom, kitchen,  
living room, big porches, lush garden, very  
quiet and private. Reduced rent of \$500 a  
month in exchange for taking care of my dog  
and the house when I am not there. Includes  
wireless internet, cable television, water, and  
power. Contact Pauline Kayes at  
[pkayes@diversityworksinc.net](mailto:pkayes@diversityworksinc.net).

**1 Bedroom Apartment** available in Hato  
as of March 1. Fully furnished, Includes cab-  
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gabon and WEB water, no pets. Minimum of  
1 year lease. \$625 per month plus 1 month  
security deposit. If interested, please call 785  
-1580.

**House for rent** till August \$1500,-- max 4  
persons 780-1433 at Hato If 1/2 persons it  
will be \$1200,--

**For RENT per April 1:** Spacious fur-  
nished 2-bedroom apartment. Good location

at Punt Vierkant in Belnem. Long term  
\$780.00 per month. **Including** Cable TV +  
wireless internet. **Excluding** housekeeping +  
utilities. Deposit required. Available April  
01, 2014. Call 796-5530.

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space kitchen and 2 living rooms. Big gar-  
den with a nice porch. Appliances include:  
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email to [kjonsdot@sscinc.com](mailto:kjonsdot@sscinc.com) ...AND

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# SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

## AIRLINES

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

## APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

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



## AUTOMOBILE DEALER

Check out **Auto City Bonaire** for the widest selection of new car brands on Bonaire including Chevrolet, Honda, Isuzu, Suzuki, Subaru. Used cars too. Complete service department. Hertz rentals.

## BANK

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

## BARS

**Zazu Bar at the Marina at Harbour Village** 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

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

**If you are a regular Reporter advertiser your listing will go here-FREE**

## 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

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

## 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.

## 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

## REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS

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



## RESTAURANTS

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

**Jewel of Bonaire** has custom made jewelry that complement Bonaire's outdoor oriented activities in addition to a great selection of watches, and precious metal items

## SECURITY

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

## STORAGE

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



## SHIPPING

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



## SPAS/GYM/HEALTH

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

## SUPERMARKETS

**BonDiGro**— Cooperative discount super market offering low prices and friendly service. Just opened.

## TOP Supermarket—

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



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



## MADE ON BONAIRE

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

## VARIETY STORE

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

## WATER TAXI

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

# Liseo Lottery Success



The “presenters” and a double winner: Yavis Chirino, Adrien Arends, Skye Romeyn, winner L. Singosemito, Notary Aniek Schoutens. Ms. Singosemito won a round trip to Klein Bonaire on the Kantika di Amor Water Taxi and a windsurfing lesson from windsurf champion Amado Vrieswijk

In the last issue of *The Reporter* there was an article about some of the Liseo Boneriano students who will be going on a “look-see” trip to either Holland or – for the very first time – New York City. To help fund the trip the students

held a “Liseo Lottery” with lots of good prizes from local businesses.

Last Friday evening there was a big party at school and the prize winners were announced. Great appreciation to all the individuals and businesses that offered prizes.

■ Story & photo by Laura DeSalvo

# Kriabon Farmers Market

**D**on’t miss the next Kriabon Farmers Market on Saturday, March 1, from 8am to 1pm. You’ll find locally grown produce, jellies and jams, plants and trees, tasty drinks from local trees, live farm animals and very friendly people. There’s always something happening: spontaneous choirs, talks, car washes. Always a surprise.

The Market is at Kriabon, the farmers’ cooperative, Kaminda Yatu Baku #55, next to the Aquamarin School. From the church in town take the road next to Caribbean Fasteners, go past More 4 Less on the right, and you’re almost there. The Market is once a month so don’t miss it this time or you’ll have to wait a whole month before the next one! ■ Story & photos by Laura DeSalvo



Spotted at the last Kriabon Farmers Market were three of the four students chosen from Bonaire to go to the Kingdom Youth Parliament Debates in St. Martin in May: Yavis Chirino, Julia Marisol Martinus, Dayron Mackay




Baby ducks were for sale by Aminah and her husband



Did you know you can buy your water tanks from Kriabon? Here is one being loaded onto the customer’s pickup.




Roald of Hydroponic Solutions shows Maria Koeks what can be done with a little water and some ingenuity.



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Saturday 08:00-13:00

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS



## Karnaval Schedule

**Tues. Feb. 25- Jump-up -Rincon, 8pm**

**Thurs. Feb. 27 -Teener's Parade, 7pm**

**Friday, Feb. 28-School Parade, 9am-noon**

**Karnaval Grand Parade – Rincon, 2pm**

**Sunday, March 2 – Grand Parade Kralendijk, 2pm**

**Monday, March 3 – Karnaval Monday –Legal Holiday**

**Tuesday, March 4 - Burning of King Momo, 7 pm**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday, March 1 - Kriabon Monthly Farmers Market – 8 am to 1 pm –more on page 15**

**Sunday, March 2—Growing crops on Bonaire, Adonai Foundation, Magazina Amboina, 4pm –more on page 9**

**Mondays, Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24—Free Reef Fish Identification Seminars at CIEE, details on page 5**

**Sunday, Mar. 9– Special Olympic fund raising Walk-athon from the White Slave Huts to Rincon. Start training now See poster on page 5 for more details**

**Friday and Saturday . Mar. 21 and 22 -BON DOET 2014**

Looking for another great experience on Bonaire? It is the greatest volunteer event on Bonaire! The NGO Platform Bonaire invites you and your family or group of (dive) friends to join locals in their effort to give back to the community in a fun way.

**Sunday, Mar. 30 – Mountain Bike Race – Call DeFreewieler 717-8545 for details**

## REGULAR EVENTS

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

**Parke di Libertat -Park-playground & canteen.** Open Monday-Saturday 8am-7pm. Free entrance. Behind the hospital.

### 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

•**Parke di Libertat Bazaar.** Flea market tables to rent \$5. Used items for sale, 9am-2pm.

•**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 Lagoon 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.

•**Petanque- Jeu de Boules,** Saturdays 2:30pm 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

• **Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour—9 am.** Meet the goats, see milking, cheese making and more. \$10 includes cheese tasting and tea, Kids \$5. 786-6950

• **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.

•**Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour—9am.** See Monday for more information

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

### Fridays

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

•**Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour—9 am.** See Monday for more information

## 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](mailto:jeroen@telbonet.an)

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

**Lions Club** meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

**Rotary lunch meetings Wednesdays,** 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

**Toastmasters Club** meets every two weeks. For more information call Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

## CHURCH SERVICES

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire:** ( VPGB ), Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday service-10 am in Dutch. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday service-8:30 am in Papiamentu/Dutch.

Children's club-every Saturday from 4:30-6 pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the church.) Contact; [Marytjin@gmail.com](mailto:Marytjin@gmail.com) or [Daisycoffie@hotmail.com](mailto:Daisycoffie@hotmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Iglesia di Cristo (Church of Christ)** Sunday: 10:30am & 7pm; Wednesday: 7pm. Services in Papiamentu (English also if needed) Address: Kaya Msgr. ndt 25 (same street as Dr. Dorvil) Cell: 796-0721. email: [iglesiadicristobonaire@gmail.com](mailto:iglesiadicristobonaire@gmail.com)

## Cruise Ship Tentative Schedule

DAY	DATE	NAME	ARR/DEP	PAX	Cruise Line
Sunday	23---Feb.-2014	DELPHIN	0800---1300	470	Passat Kreuzahrten
Tuesday	25---Feb.-2014	Vision of the Seas	0800---1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Tuesday	25---Feb.-2014	Ventura	0800---1800	3080	P&O Cruises
Friday	28---Feb.-2014	Legend of the Seas	0700---1400	2435	Celebrity/RCCL
Monday	03---Mar.-2014	Emerald Princess	0700---1400	3200	Princess Cruises
Tuesday	04---Mar.-2014	Vision of the Seas	0800---1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Wednesday	05---Mar.-2014	Aida Luna	0800---1800	2194	Aida Cruises
Wednesday	05---Mar.-2014	Noordam	0700---1700	1920	HAL
Sunday	09---Mar.-2014	Riviera	0700---1500	1250	Oceana Cruises
Tuesday	11---Mar.-2014	Vision of the Seas	0800---1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL



# UNFAIR

As it stands now citizens of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba cannot vote directly for their representation in the First Chamber of the Parliament, the Dutch Senate. But they still get taxed by The Dutch Government even though they don't have the same say about taxes, as well as other things, as a European Dutch citizen.

Currently the Senate and the Dutch Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations, Ronald Plasterk, are at odds about the best way to remedy those voting rights. They do agree that **only persons with the Dutch nationality should be able to vote for the Senate**. They disagree on how to accomplish that.

The vote for the Senate is an indirect vote in the European part of The Netherlands; Dutch citizens vote for members of their Provincial Government, which in turn elect the members of the Senate.

The Caribbean Netherlands aren't part of a province and don't have this additional layer; there is only one layer of government, which is the Island Council. The proposed Second Chamber (Senate) voting law, okayed by the First Chamber, has members of the Island Council elect members of the Senate. But - oops - **all legal BES Island resident aliens** with five years residency, regardless of nationality, can currently vote for the Island Councils, even if they aren't Dutch citizens. That means non-Dutch people would be indirectly electing members of Parliament - a no, no according to the ground rules.

There are two options on the table to arrange the voting rights for the Senate for Dutch citizens on the islands:



1. Only people with the Dutch nationality can vote in the Island Council elections. Which would be unfair since European Dutch foreign residents can vote in Municipal Council elections in the Dutch city or town where they live.

or

2. Maintain the voting rights of foreigners for the Island Council elections and inventing, an "Electoral College" for which only Dutch citizens can vote. The "Electoral College" would then vote for the Parliamentarians. This approach would require an amendment in the Constitution of the Netherlands, a lengthy process.

The minister is in favor of option one, while the Senate wants option two. Plasterk argues it is "disproportional" to amend the Constitution for 1,128 people, which he says is the number of non-Dutch nationals who have been living in the Caribbean Netherlands for five years or more. But Plasterk's number is too low even just counting the Bonaire resident aliens.

The Senate doesn't consider Plasterk's arguments very convincing..

**What do our readers think? ■ G.D.**

# Children's Karnaval Parade

Group	Group Name	Theme	Individuals
1	Di Nos pa bo	Ban Kosechá	Mayjeanthly Marcelli
2	The Future Kids		Ashley Pop
3	Ki Co To	Bailarin i Bailarina	Jameyenne Frans
4	Nos tambe ta den	Spirit of India	
5	Fesbo / Tra'i merdia	E Tesoronan di Egipto	
6	Crazy Happy Teens	Beautiful Collors of Bailarina's	
7	Kiddy Kids	Fantasia di Flor	
8	The Little Treasure	Go Green Butterfly	
9	The Ginnies	Indjan	



Zani

It was one of the biggest and best Children's Parade in memory. The nine groups and three individuals were comprised of 465 people! ■

Cover & photos from the Rincon Parade by Laura DeSalvo



Top left: "Do Nos Pa Bo"; middle left: "Ki Co To"; bottom left and both right: "The Ginnies"

## In Memory of Victor

February 14 1991 - July 15 2011

He knew how to fly.  
Tragically, he did not know how to land.

We'll meet again. (Presumably)



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# Pet of the Week

Here is Bonaire Animal Shelter volunteer Hettie Holian with “wonder dog,” Ineke. Although Hettie normally works with the cats as one of the “cat gurus,” she does enjoy hanging out with the dogs as well. And, Ineke is a big favorite with her.

Ineke was dropped off in the *Kouchi di Bestia* (Dropoff Cage) when she was about three months old. Bewildered and afraid, she was difficult to handle and kind of mean. Who knows what kind of treatment she had before being dropped off. But after the loving care at the Shelter she’s made a complete turn-around. She’s sweet and loving and has totally changed. What a little love can do! The vet has checked her out; she’s had her shots and worming. Right now she’s about a year old and would make a perfect pet for the right person who will appreciate and love her. Ineke has that short, easy-to-care-for lovely coat. The staff calls her a “leaning dog” as she likes to get right up to a person and lean into them.

The adoption fee of \$75 includes all that plus sterilization



*Ineke and Hettie*

and an ID chip. You may meet Ineke and the other dogs and cats up for adoption at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open from Monday to Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989.

[WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com](http://WWW.BonaireAnimalShelter.com). See all the latest info on Facebook.

*Story & photo by Laura De-Salvo*

# Left Behind!



Lately the Bonaire Animal Shelter has rescued lots of dogs that were turned out or left behind when the owners moved to another place. Some were even left on a chain. Last week the Shelter had some dogs that had their necks deeply cut where the chain sliced into them. Those dogs are usually not very friendly because they were mistreated and are afraid of people. We need to stop this terrible “trend.”



The dog in the photo dog was picked up a few days ago. We took her to the vet where her wounds were treated. Now she's in the Shelter where she gets lots of TLC. We even found a new owner for this dog. When she's fit to go, she has a new name, **Fay**, and a new home! ■ *Story & photos by Marlies Tjepel*

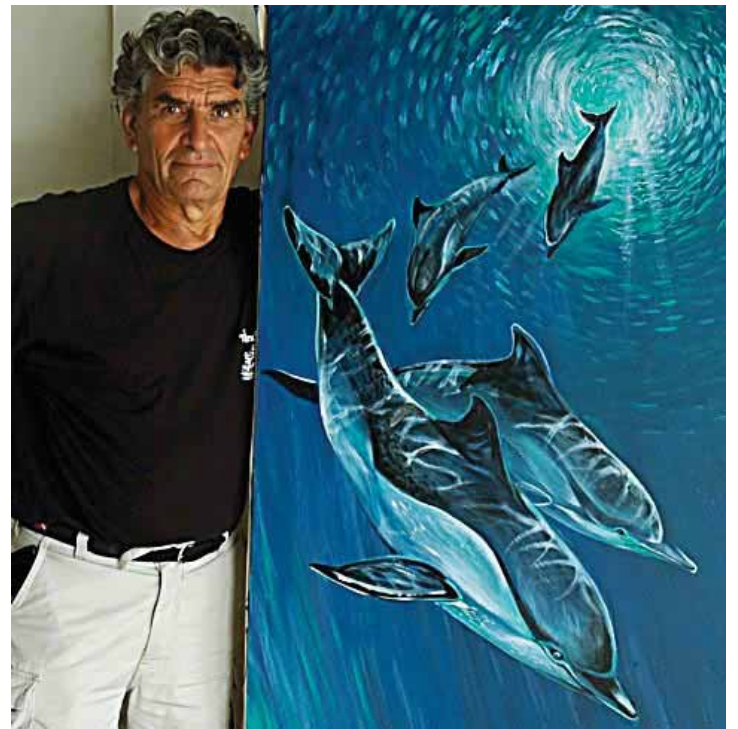
# New Art Gallery

Last Friday night French-born cartoonist/artist Dominique Serafini opened a new Blue Gallery at the north end of Playa Lechi with a small party.

A “regular” on Bonaire since 2000, Serafini spent 20 years on board *Calypso* with Jacques Cousteau as a diver and illustrator.

He is the co-host of the television dive show, “DreamWrecks,” with Catherine Salisbury and co-author of the book “DreamWrecks - The Most Spectacular Shipwrecks of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao.”

In addition to his work with Jacques Cousteau, Sea Shepherd Conservation, he is now with Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures. He is a past contributor to the pages of *The Bonaire Reporter*. On Bonaire, Dominique developed a comic strip called Captain Don's Bon-



aire Reef Stories, available free on the iTunes store.

Pass by the gallery and treat yourself to some incredible underwater art including several 3-D paintings. ■ *G.D.*



## Looking for another great experience on Bonaire?

Join the annual BON DOET on March 21st or 22nd, 2014. It is the greatest volunteer event on Bonaire! The NGO Platform Bonaire invites you and your family or group of (dive) friends to join locals in their effort to give back to the community in a fun way.

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# THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen  
March 2014

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Get involved in groups and organizations that are of a distinguished nature. Do not lend money to friends, or contribute more than necessary to groups unworthy of your cash. Interaction with colleagues will only be upsetting. You're in the mood to do things such as competitive sports, or perhaps a night on the town. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You may be frazzled this month. You can make progress if you deal with the right individuals. Do not overspend on entertainment. You could find that children will be a handful. Don't be too confident that co-workers are on your side. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You may want to look into warm vacation spots. If you're feeling uncertain, spend some time alone and reevaluate your motives as well as your needs. Romantic opportunities are evident if you get involved in large groups or organizations. You may want to look into warm vacation spots. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) It might be time to do some of those chores at home. Your desire for excitement and adventure may be expensive. Be careful how you handle friends and relatives, they may take things the wrong way. Try to be patient with their inability to accept your new beliefs. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Avoid joint ventures and steer clear of groups that want you to contribute financial assistance. You may as well work on projects that will allow you to make progress. You can help them more than they can help you. Acceptance will be necessary. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You can't do everything on your own. Physical limitations are possible if you aren't careful. Finish up any correspondence by early afternoon. Romance will unfold through business trips. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Upheavals may occupy your day. Avoid friends or acquaintances who drink too much. Be prepared to take advantage of your good fortune. Social events may lead to a romantic interlude. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You will learn a great deal from the foreigners you meet. Do something together and you'll be surprised how sweet a deal you can make. Job changes are in order. Go for interviews or send out resumes. Investments are best left alone this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) A female colleague may cause problems for you. You will be appreciated for the competence you exhibit and for taking on responsibilities. You'll be surprised how much you can accomplish. Your mind will be on matters that deal with secret affairs. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You can make some favorable changes to your looks. Do you really want to start something with someone you can't reason with? You need to pamper yourself for a change. Opportunities to learn important information will surface through discussions with peers or seminars you attend. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Your love will not be willing to listen to your criticism. You will be a bit of a spendthrift this month. You can win points with children if you take the time to show interest in their accomplishments. You can stabilize your financial situation if you make property investments. Your luckiest events will occur on a Friday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) They will not be in the right frame of mind to put up with tactless comments. Don't blow situations out of proportion. Look for something entertaining to do. You've got that competitive edge. Get together with people who stimulate you mentally. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday. ■

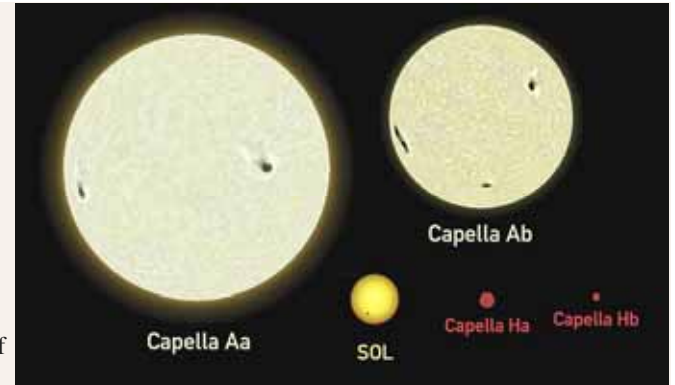


## BONAIRE SKY PARK\* \*to find it... just look up

### FAVORITE STARS

Do you have favorite stars? Not the movie stars but the ones in the Sky Park sky.

Some stars just have character. They vary in brightness, size, distance, and especially color. When we think of stars, we immediately think they're all white. Not so. Stars come in all colors of the rainbow, from ruby red to tangerine, from platinum blonde to deep blue.



And these distinct colors that you can see with the naked eye tell us a bunch.

On any night this week after sunset face south. There you'll find the constellation, **Orion the Hunter**, with his distinctive belt of three stars. If you look a little closer you'll see stars of different brightness and color.

Star color is an indication of its temperature - blue stars being the hottest and red stars being the coldest. You can really see the colors of the brightest stars like those in Orion. Most of his stars are blue like the belt stars **Alnitak**, **Anilam**, and **Mintaka**. And Orion's left foot, the star **Rigel** is blue too.

But a favorite blue star is in Orion's shoulder - called **Bellatrix**. Bellatrix is one of the hottest stars at over 38,000 degrees. Through a telescope, Bellatrix is the deepest blue you have ever seen - almost purple. Seeing it through a telescope is like peering into a deep, clear lake.

Bellatrix has a mysterious history. Its name means "beautiful Amazon woman star." The star's influence was said to produce strong qualities in women and rendered all those born under it lucky and loquacious. However, little else is known about the Greek and Roman origins of this name.

Marking Orion's other shoulder is the star **Betelgeuse**. Actually, in most legends, Orion has his right arm raised up holding a club and Betelgeuse marks his underarm. Betelgeuse translates from ancient Arabic as "armpit of the giant."

Not only does this star have a colorful name but it also shines with a beautiful orange glow. This ruddy color gives us a hint to its temperature - about 5,800 degrees on its surface. Much colder than blue Bellatrix.

Look for Orion's belt of three stars, as well as Betelgeuse and Bellatrix in the southwest after sunset. But the brightest star in the night sky is the Dog Star, **Sirius**. But don't mistake it for even-brighter **Venus**, the current morning star, or **Jupiter** visible in the western sky. Sirius blazes with a stark white light in the south and a temperature of about 17,000 degrees.

Sirius is a tiny star compared to blue Bellatrix and is almost nothing next to behemoth Betelgeuse. The only reason Sirius is so bright is because it's so much closer to us - only 8.6 light years away. Compared to over 240 light years to Bellatrix and 640 light years to Betelgeuse.

**Capella** is a bright star high in the western sky this month. Capella is similar to our Sun in temperature - and so it should look about the same color - yellowish-white. But Capella is much larger. Plus there's not just one star there, but three or more stars orbiting each other! Imagine all the sunsets and sunrises you could see from a planet in that system with four suns. Check out the photo above.

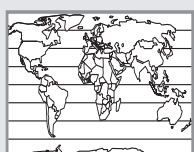
As a star, our Sun, **Sol**, falls right in the middle of the temperature spectrum. With a surface temperature of roughly 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit, the Sun bathes us in the yellow-white light we all know and love.

Dimmer stars all appear white to our eyes. But if you look at these same dimmer stars through binoculars or a telescope, you'll see their individual colors more distinctly. From red to blue the hues are subtle, but once you train your eye to search out these variations of color, you may discover that do you have favorite stars. ■ Dean Regas / G.D.

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

### Sudoku Solution

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

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