

It's Still FREE

BONAIRE March 10-24, 2014 - Year 21, Issue 6
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



Bonaire's Island Council unanimously adopted a motion formalizing the earlier initiative to organize a new constitutional referendum.

It will approach the United Nations (UN) officially to place the island on its list of "non-self-governing territories."

A preparatory committee has four weeks to advise the council on organizing a referendum based on UN Resolution 1541. The committee will look into the strategy, timing and content resulting from public consultation. The Island Council has the final say.

James Finies of "Nos Ke Boneiru Bek" (We Want Bonaire Back) applauded the actions. Finies is of the opinion that The Netherlands has opened the door and will not hamper Bonaire in its decision-making. "Now, it's up to us to represent ourselves and force change."

►In a related action **Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba were given the OK to decide on a constitutional referendum** and whether it will be held before or after the planned evaluation of the current status, Secretary-General of the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations Richard van Zwol emphasized, "That is the local autonomy. It's really the local government and Island Council's move. The Netherlands is neutral in this matter," he told Belkis Osepa of *Caribisch Netwerk*.

According to the Secretary General, if an island wishes a different relation with The Netherlands within the Kingdom, the Dutch Government is to enter into a discussion. "There are two sides of the coin. If a majority decides to break off relations with The Netherlands and the Kingdom, it is their right to self-determination. If an island wishes a different kind of relation it will also affect The Netherlands."

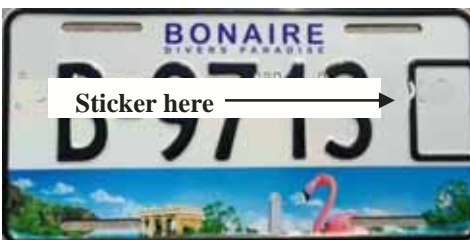
►The watch dog organization, **The Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, in its advice to the Dutch Government on Thursday stated that human rights should be a leading factor in the process to raise the social, healthcare, security and educational facilities on the islands to an acceptable level.** The constitutional evaluation of the public entities Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba in 2015 should include the guarantee of a minimum level of human rights with focus on a decent standard of living and combating of poverty.

►The Bonaire Executive Council has made **Rincon Day, April 30, an official**

island holiday. Queen's Day, April 30, was a holiday already, but after Queen Beatrix stepped down in favor of her son, Willem-Alexander, he decided his birthday, April 27 (born April 27, 1967), would replace Queen's Day as a holiday. Labor Day, May 1, remains a holiday.

►Both cranes of Curaçao's container harbor facility were out of order last weekend, causing a considerable backlog in offloading cargo ships. A container ship was even diverted to Aruba on Friday. Operator Curaçao Port Services (CPS) has meanwhile repaired and put one of the cranes back into use, while the other is undergoing regular maintenance. Both have reached the end of their lifespan and talks on the purchase of replacements with owner Curaçao Ports Authority (CPA) are ongoing. See *Word On the Street*, page 12, for one reaction on Bonaire. Virtually all containers arriving on Bonaire are offloaded onto Roll On/Roll Off ships before arriving on Bonaire. **Bonaire needs a container crane for the port.** See page 12 for comment.

►The Bonaire government has announced that they are updating and "digitalizing" all boat registrations. **If you are the owner of a boat, any size, any kind, you are requested to visit the harbormaster's office during office hours to update, renew or register your boat** during the two-week period beginning March 10. After this period, all old data in their system will be removed. For more information you may call 717-5330 extension 246 or 717-8151.



►Auto license stickers for 2014 remain on sale at the main tax office in Kralendijk. Make sure you have a valid insurance certificate to present when registering your vehicle.

►Recently the Island Government issued the 2013 leasehold bills and sent out reminder notices. Public discussions on various social media indicate that the tax changes of January 1, 2011, on lease, land and property tax are not always clear to everyone.

The following information is meant to clarify these changes.

Leasehold Land - *Erfpacht*

In the middle of the last century, the local government began issuing long-lease land. In the early years the lease agreements were for a period of 60 years, without the possibility of reassessing property values. Later, a clause in these agreements (with some exceptions) allowed the leaser the right to make adjustments to the land value by a decision of the Island Council, valuations are based on land values in November 2010.

Land tax - *Grondbelasting*

Owners of real property receive an annual property tax assessment. The fixed rate is 0.345% (including surcharges) on the appraised value. Assessments are based on valuations carried out on behalf of the Ministry of Finance. Landowners who do not agree with the valuation can file an objection.

Property Tax - *Vastgoedbelasting*

If the property is **not** a primary residence, it is, in principle, subject to property tax. This applies not only to property but also for leasehold land. The property tax is a flat tax levied on an assumed rate of return of 4% on the value of the property.

For further information for lease or land tax contact the Bonaire finance department at 717 5330. For information on the property tax and exemptions, contact Tax/Caribbean Netherlands. Phone: 715 8585.

►As we go to press there have been arrests in last months Bonaire



"Country Garden" double murder case of two Curaçao ex-convicts. The Police team of SWAT units from Curaçao, Aruba, RST and the GBO (Group Special Assignments), the Royal Military Police (KMar) JICN, Customs, Coast Guard and RCN conducted seven raids last Saturday morning. They **arrested three suspects: R.J.D. F. (born 03-06-1972), F.G.R. W (29-08-1988) and E.F.A.J. (08-02-1994) who were living on Bonaire.** During the searches various goods were confiscated as were weapons and three vehicles. The investigation is continuing.

►The 2014 Kite Ride Bonaire will have 14 riders battling for the best performance, at

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) Atlantis Beach, between June 17-22. The 2014 Kite Ride Bonaire will also host a Downwinder for charity and other events.

► **The RCN, in collaboration with Caribbean Telecom and IT Services, will conduct a survey on the improvement of the internet on Bonaire in the months to come.** Although the current situation on Bonaire is not comparable to the original situation in Saba and St. Eustatius, it appears that the usage of broadband internet, the average speeds and the pricing lag behind others in the region.

In the study, various options will be explored, such as the formation of a combined purchase and installation of an additional fiber optic cable. **It is expected that this survey will be completed in mid-July 2014.**

► **Rectification:** In the last edition of *The Reporter* we wrote that Government had provided funding for the newly opened *Parke di Libertat- S. James Finies* (Former Parke Publiko Boneriano). That was incorrect. Our reporters misunderstood the comments made at the re-opening ceremony.

Founder **Davika Bissessar** informed *The Reporter*. "We have and as of (this) date have absolutely never received any governmental monetary funds or grants for continued structural funding."

► **Welcome, Bonaire Reporter's newest advertiser, BHM—Bonaire Hydrotest and Maintenance.** Already handling testing for many of Bonaire's largest dive shops, owner Arturo has decades of experience in the technology of diving and was a dive shop owner in Venezuela. He is open-

ing his service to individual divers as well now. Visit his high-tech shop across from Bondigro. See the advertisement at the bottom of page 2.

► **Plan ahead to build a kite.** The 36th edition of the famous **Kon-test di Fli** (kite) is set for April 6. All kites must be handmade.

Entrants from Curacao join Bonaireans for this all day event. Ages 6 -100 years-old welcome. Contact Iris Semeleer at the Bonaire Book Store, 717-6586. (more on page 16)

► **Less than two weeks remain until BON DOET!** About 750 volunteers have signed up already. There is still time. Call Roosje: **701-7984**. See poster on page 18 for more info.

► As we go to press police report well-known Bonaire resort owner **Mike Stanfield died in a diving accident** on Bonaire's east coast. More details in the next *Reporter*

► **Remember, to tell the stores you shop and the restaurants you frequent to advertise in *The Bonaire Reporter*. Then it can still be free to our readers.** ■
G.D./L.D.



Junior Rangers Healthy Meal



On Tuesday, February 18, **Better Food For Better Kids (BFFBK) Foundation** discovered some pretty nutritionally savvy kids among the Jong Bonaire Junior Rangers. They not only shared a healthy meal of locally caught Lion fish and fresh veggies that they helped prepare, but they spoke about problems of the world's food supply and how it could impact their health. From antibiotics in animal feed, to genetically modified organisms (GMOs), to animal products full of hormones, the kids showed nurse-nutritionist and BFFBK founder **Laraine Abbey-Katzev** they knew 'a thing or two' about the impact of food on health, even mentioning that hormones pumped into our food animals were causing premature puberty.

The food event was skillfully organized and orchestrated by BFFBK board member **Irene da Cunda**, together with "**GooDive Lionfish Research and Removal Club**" (GLRRC) along with **STINAPA** and **Fernando Simal**, who generously offered his house to host the event. It was fun watching Irene guide the kids who volunteered to peel, cut, boil, carry and do all the kitchen chores.

The catch was provided by GLRRC. The Sunday before a hunting activity took place and seven members of the club were either spotting or hunting Lionfish. The star hunter was **Paulo Bertuol** from STINAPA, who also donated an extra load of Lionfish he previously caught.

Irene's healthy cookout concept emerged during a BFFBK meeting and aimed to provide the kids with a high quality protein meal, locally obtained and accompanied by lots of veggies, proving that healthy can also be tasty.

During the activity, Laraine engaged the kids in a dialog about healthy eating and its impact upon mood, learning and behavior. They listened attentively, while also giving their own ideas, showing quite some knowledge about the problems we are all facing nowadays regarding our food. All shared good information, good food, and a good time. ■

Story by Laraine Abbey Katzev, photos by BFFK.

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On The Island Since... 1998 - Ben and Laura Buchbinder



Ben and Laura Buchbinder

“Ever since I was a little kid I loved the water. I grew up in Texas and Ben in New York City, and he was a little bit afraid of the sea. But he enjoyed snorkeling and seeing the stuff, and knowing that I loved it so much he took a dive course in the States. So, we’d just learn to dive, then Ben’s sister, who dives a lot, had seen in Earthwatch scientific research expeditions to conserve wildlife an opportunity for volunteers to go to Bonaire to look at what kinds of critters live in caves under water. It was 1982 and nobody we knew had ever heard of Bonaire, including us.

For three consecutive years, we did reef mapping on Bonaire, also for Earthwatch, and we got a lot of practice diving with them. Dave Kobloc was the professor from Canada; he did the research project and we did whatever he told us to.

During those years we really fell in love with Bonaire, but of course the reefs then were gorgeous. We stayed at Bonaire Beach Bungalows in Belnem, where now Bella-fonte sits, and it was the original Bonaire – not one real estate office and you would celebrate when there were eggs.

We were living in the States and our jobs became more demanding and we really couldn’t take two-week vacations. We both worked for the National Bureau of Standards in the fire program. So, we went on with our lives. Around 1991/1992 we were going on a trip to Dominica for our 20th wedding anniversary, but when we got to Dulles Airport the airline was on strike. I said, ‘I am NOT going home!’ So I went to American Airlines and got us a flight to Aruba. Then we were able to get another flight to Bonaire. I think that was fate that we got back to Bonaire.

Although it had changed we still loved the island. Maybe at that point we thought we could retire here although we were still working. But... you’ve got to think ahead! Then we found this beautiful plot of land in Sabadeco that we loved, so we thought we would build. We’ve been really lucky because neither one of us knew diddle about building a house on a Caribbean island. Ha ha ha! We got two very good architects, a couple fluent in Spanish and willing to build

us a house we wanted instead of selling us one according to their idea. The other thing that was fortunate was that Oporto, the builder, needed the work so it wasn’t too expensive. We didn’t ‘clean’ the whole plot of land - I practically had to throw my body in front of the bulldozer – so part of it is still nature.

“ I practically had to throw my body in front of the bulldozer – so part of it is still nature...”

We got a great house and I still love it and the view is matchless. By the end of 1998 we moved here, finally retired, and we still loved Bonaire. People back in the States thought we were out of our minds because to build a house in the Caribbean, pack up and leave to a place most people never heard of... but that’s what we did and we never regretted it. Neither Amado Felix nor Bruce Bowker thought we would last, but here we are – 17 years later.

Before we retired I was working for FEMA Disaster Response, one of the very few women working there on the senior level. I was in management and I ran our training facility for a while. I was one out of five women who went to the National War College – which is where they train future generals and admirals. FEMA had one position open there and they chose me.” *She laughs.* “I was scared to death but I did okay – not at the top of the class- but it was a good experience. Ben worked for NASA, working on risk analysis for the Hubble space telescope and the shuttle that went to the moon.

When we came to Bonaire we obviously wanted to dive – that was our love – but we also wanted to volunteer, to give back to the island. Most of our volunteer work was associated with the reef. We did clean-up dives, fish identification, a study at Lac Bay – whatever was needed we did and we made



Laura and their dog Susie (Ben was excused, he was off playing tennis)

many good friends which we still have. We also used to write articles for *The Bonaire Reporter* and we did the editing of the English versions of the books of Dos and Bertie Winkel. You know, on Bonaire there is always stuff you can do to contribute. You just have to find it.

The other area we were interested in was youth – the young people. I volunteered as a teacher at E-College, a private high school located at Kaya Amsterdam. Then we were thinking that if you live on an island you don’t have access to different roll models to see what you could be when you grow up – like what are your opportunities in this big

and that’s fine.

When you retire and change locations, it doesn’t mean you lose your friends. We are still friends with the people we left behind when we moved here. Your good friends always remain, wherever you are. But you might lose your acquaintances. Four years ago we bought a house in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, when I realized we had to start transitioning. We still have a lot of friends there and we have relatives in Florida that I would like to spend some time with. Then there’s Ben’s daughter who lives in the DC area.

So now we are leaving because it’s a little too much to handle - two houses in two countries - as you get older. You know, you think ahead and there is a time for everything, so the last four years we’ve been spending time here and there, and now we have a life there too. I couldn’t have done it ‘cold turkey.’ We love Bonaire too much. I would have been in a basket case. Now we can ease ourselves into the new life. Of course we will come back to visit, and of course we will always stay friends with the people we’ve been friends with here for so long. The only thing is you can’t go for lunch with them so easily anymore!

Our dog Susie (one of the many dogs and cats we had here) is coming with us. She is a Bonairean dog who adopted us, and boy, does she travel. If you could get frequent flyer miles for dogs too, that would be perfect.

Our future won’t be big and grand. It’s just that I take care of Ben and he takes care of me. We’ll have our friends and relatives and we will probably do some volunteering. You make your own happiness. We’ve lived in many places and we’ve been happy in all of them.

The reason we came here... when you come off the plane and the wind hits you... you know you are back. I hope people who come here feel that too, because either you love it or you hate it.

We’ve seen a lot of changes on Bonaire. Change is inevitable, but I hope it’s not going to be too much and that we’ll lose the Bonaire we love. I really don’t want it to become a little Holland – I really don’t.” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Bonaire Against Child Abuse

‘OPEN YOUR EYES AND PAY ATTENTION’

FIRST CAMPAIGN OF FUNDASHON RESPETA MUCHA KICK OFF

On Wednesday, February 26th, *Fundashon Respetá Mucha* (Respect for the Child), gave their very first press conference at El Mundo Restaurant. The Foundation was established in October last year by Desiree Croes, president of the foundation. The goal is to stop child abuse, to raise awareness and to give workshops to organizations and bodies that are working with children about how to recognize child abuse.



“T here is nothing I can do right. Every day I am afraid to go to sleep and close my eyes. Every time I close my eyes, I hear the screaming. I see my stepfather beating me, his eyes, his hands, and his hatred as if he wants to kill me. One day I really didn't feel like going to school anymore, so I quit. I met an old man who gave me food, clothes, everything I needed to live. I left home to stay with him. I had to flee from my stepfather, but now I can't have babies anymore. The doctor told me I was given a terrible disease.”

Also, the foundation is planning on introducing a hotline for children to report the abuse, speak out about their pain, or just to chat to someone who might be able to help them.

“This is a first for Bonaire,” Desiree said. “There's too little civil awareness for child abuse – it's not visible - and it's missing effective action and campaigns. We want to put more pressure on the subject.” Then two posters were unveiled by Governor Lydia Emerencia and Deputy Hans Els.

In an emotional speech, straight from the heart, Governor Emerencia expressed that it was incredible what the foundation had accomplished in only three months. And she added, “Often society treats children badly in so many ways; they are used in child labor, they are used as slaves, they are used to make pornography, and they are abused in so many, many ways. People should wake up. A child is the most vulnerable person in our community and it is always a part of us. A child should be protected, it has a right to be a child and live like it, in its own way, by its own rules.”

We have to look for a way to get results and stop child abuse and shake up the community, because it is always unacceptable. There is no excuse for it. And there is nothing wrong with the children, but something is definitely wrong with the adults.

Please, take care of our children.”

Deputy Hans Els said in his speech that this was not only a beginning, but a start to create awareness among the people and that, “We should not be afraid to speak out!” He promised that the government would help in every possible way to create a healthy future for the children of Bonaire.

The conference ended with a shocking and realistic performance by Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation directed by Dennis Martinus. Five children wearing brown paper bags over their heads represented five terribly abused Bonairean children, giving the original testimony about their abuse. You could hear a pin drop when everybody realized how severe child abuse is as one of the statements was worded as follows:

Girl: “I had my first child when I was 14 years old. I don't have my children anymore. My parents forced me to give them away. My father loves me more than my mother. Every day or night when he came home, he played with my body. My mother loves me as well. She gave me to lots of men. One day, when I was pregnant again, I wanted to run away. I was so tired of it all and I wanted a better life for my child. I found a social worker who said he certainly would help me. But all he wanted was to play with me.” ■ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Members of the foundation, Lisette van Marrewijk, Dee from the Woodwind, Patricia Bergwijn and Desiree Croes, president.



Governor Emerencia unveils one of the awareness posters

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Beginning a three-part article by Patrick Holian about the Cargill Solar Salt Works in the south of Bonaire

PART 1-THE PROCESS

I am standing on a platform 50-feet above a snow-white terrain deep in the tropics. Below, massive front-end loaders dump tons of crystals upon a conveyor belt that are rapidly elevated to where I stand. The material is then separated into what are called 'sun gems', large pieces that shuffle off to the right, and 'screen coarse', smaller particles, which move to the left. Moments later both types cascade down to earth forming orderly, cone-shaped mountains. Frenklin Pietersz, a Cargill production worker, walks up and hands me a shiny clump and says in Papiamentu, "This is the crystal gold of Bonaire! Welcome to the salt works."

Since 1997 Cargill has been operating the salt operation that occupies nearly 20% of the island. *Forbes Magazine* lists the corporation as the largest privately owned company in the United States. In some ways their operation is very simple, producing a product by harnessing the power of the surrounding environmental elements—seawater, wind and sun. Basically, salt water is pumped into the ponds (historically called pans) mostly by windmills but at times by mechanical pumps. The sun then evaporates the seawater, and what is left behind is salt. In the chemical world this residue is known as NaCl and Bonaire is known worldwide to have some of the purist, 99.6%. In essence, that is what solar salt works is all about—moving water, controlling wind and producing salt. But I soon discovered the process is actually a complex mix of art and science.

"We are like farmers," claims Gary Rimmey, Cargill's plant manager. "You plant your crop—that's the sea water. Then we do everything we can to nurture that crop. We move it around. We manage our saline densities in all the ponds so we can maximize our crop. And then we harvest it, clean it, process it and stack it. Then hope we have a favorable market for it."



Daniel DeAnda

decade and later with molasses. That work took him to the Caribbean, as did his next position as environmental health and safety manager. During that time he regularly visited Cargill's salt works on Bonaire. Since 2011, he has served as plant manager, overseeing the entire operation.

"There is a lot of knowledge, wisdom and judgment that goes into making salt," continues Rimmey. "It takes a team and it's complicated. There is biology involved in it. That's what gives the ponds their pink color. We like the pink because it absorbs more heat and that increases evaporation. Managing water levels and monitoring the weather are other important functions. I can teach you how to make salt in 15 minutes, but to get really good at it, it takes a lifetime."

(Continued on page 7)

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Salt (Continued from page 6)

“The pink water is caused by a halophilic bacterium,” explains Cargill’s biologist, Daniel DeAnda. “Halophilic literally means ‘salt loving’. You don’t find it in the sea because the salinity is too low. But the bacterium thrives here in the ponds due to the higher salinity. When we see that we have a nice pink color, that means that we have a healthy system for producing salt.”

As DeAnda takes me on a tour of the salt works by truck, I learn that the aqua green colored water is called ‘new water’ freshly pumped in from the sea. Cargill brings in seawater from both the east and west coasts. The brown or rust-colored water is concentrated brine that is added to the crystallizer ponds. We soon arrive at such a pond glutted with salt crystals shining like diamonds in the sun. It is harvest day and two busy front end loaders jockey for position to fill an enormous truck that can hold 45 metric tons of salt. That is enough to fill over 1.5 million four-once salt shakers.

Watching this mechanical dance for a few minutes makes me realize that much of salt making involves moving materials. It starts with seawater being repeatedly pumped through a series of condenser ponds where most of the evaporation occurs. These are the largest ponds in the operation. The water is then moved through a series of crystallizer ponds like the one that I now stand upon. It takes about two months before the brine begins to turn into salt. The pond’s hard, black surface resembles the thick black ice of a



Green seawater enters the process, turning pink on the way to surrendering its salt



frozen lake in winter. This compressed salt top easily supports the weight of the harvest machinery. It also provides a relatively clean surface that keeps the salt free of sand and vegetation. The front-end loader operators deftly position their blades to scoop up only the newly formed salt.

“Our salt is very white and it’s naturally white,” continues DeAnda. “We don’t add anything to make it white. We only rinse it with salt water and that’s where this load is headed now. Some of our salt is exported for de-icing roads in North America, but because of its larger size, it’s used for many other things. It’s used for



Rudolf Goeloe monitors the conveyer

water conditioning, for water softeners in homes and swimming pools. Others use it to make chlorine. It is also used in dyes for the textile industry and the petroleum industry uses it in their processing.”

By day’s end I return to the plant manager’s office. I mention to Gary Rimmey how Daniel DeAnda says he is obsessed with following the rainfall by monitoring the 10 weather stations strategically placed around the salt works. I soon learn that that concern is well founded. “Heavy rains are really bad for us. If these ponds fill up with rain, we lose our dikes and our salt floors and we’re wiped out. We try to maintain our levels so this does not hap-



A cone of crystal

pen. We’re unlike farmers in that respect. Usually, we are hoping that it doesn’t rain.”

Rimmey pauses and then smiles while looking out his office window. In the distance, harvested salt continues to drop from the conveyor belts high in the sky. Several cone-shaped mountains have formed since this morning. That salt now awaits shipment. “I never get tired of watching the salt fall from that machine,” says Rimmey. “It’s a beautiful business.” ■

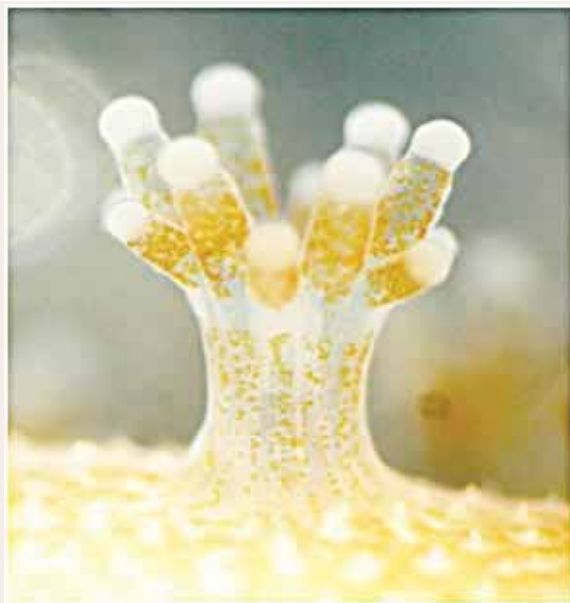
Story & photos by Patrick Holian

In the next issue of the Bonaire Reporter, Part 2 of Crystal Gold will explore the cultural and economic impacts of the solar



DID YOU KNOW?

That most corals can’t survive without another organism living inside of them? Many corals in the Caribbean have *Symbiodinium* inside of them, which are a type of algae that are only made up of one cell. *Symbiodinium* make food from the sunlight that feeds the coral, and the coral provides shelter for the *Symbiodinium*. This kind of relationship is called mutualism, or symbiosis. They are each helping each other out! There are nine known groups of *Symbiodinium*. Each of these groups is called a clade, which is labeled as letters A to I, and each clade is a little different. Some *Symbiodinium* are better than others at making food in certain conditions, such as warmer or more acidic water.



Symbiodinium aren’t always helpful, though. One of the nine groups of *Symbiodinium* (Clade A) is actually known to behave more like a parasite under certain environmental conditions, meaning it is benefiting from living in the coral, but the coral is not benefiting as much from the relationship. When this happens, corals can actually change, or “shuffle,” the *Symbiodinium* that’s in them. *Symbiodinium* that are suspended in the water around corals can be switched with the *Symbiodinium* inside the coral. This way, the coral can host the *Symbiodinium* that is benefiting them the most. So now you know, next time you see a live healthy coral, you are actually seeing two organisms living together. ■

Meghan Atkinson

Meghan Atkinson is a Biology Major with a Marine Option from Oregon State University in Corvallis Oregon. She is studying on Bonaire at the CIEE Research Station



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SNACK JACK

This is the first of a series of *Bonaire Reporter* short articles by J@n Brouwer, about pubs, bars, snacks and little local restaurants.

THE FAMOUS HOMEMADE EGGROLLS FROM FUIKEE SNACK RINCON

Rincon/Bonaire –

Fui Kee Snack is located on Kaya C.D. Christian in Rincon. This street connects Kaya Prome and Kaya Commerce. In Rincon hardly anybody will be able to tell you where these streets are. The snack is located somewhere between the Roman Catholic Church and the church of the Protestant Congregation Bonaire. Now the lights in the eyes of some locals will light up. In fact Jimmy's Snack is located next to the Cadushy Distillery and Cinelandia, the old and almost forgotten movie theater where still some huge and impressive Philips-made projectors are waiting for better times.

Jimmy Fen and his wife Cuilian Lin were born in China. They came to Bonaire in 2001 and took over the little bar/restaurant in 2003. Fui Kee Snack is open six days a week from 11am to 11pm. On Mondays the snack is closed. Since 2013 Jimmy and his wife and their two children, Jun Jun Feng, born on Curacao, and Selly Feng, born on Bonaire, also run the little supermarket next to the snack, Lin Coin Supermarket BV. Same building, same telephone number: 717-3816. These Chinese keep it simple and well organized.

If you have the intention to visit Rincon, or if you do not have any intention at all, which might



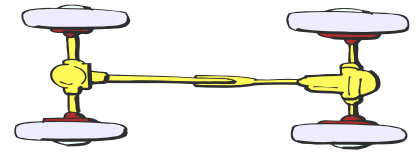
Two original, unspoiled and extremely friendly Rinconeros, Cuilian and her husband Jimmy

be even better, the best way to drive to Rincon is follow Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot, heading north in the direction of the Karpata mansion. Half way along, this road turns into a one-way road so you cannot use it going back from Rincon to Kralendijk. Rincon, the oldest village of Bonaire, is connected with the capital with a two-way tarmac road.

Fui Kee Snack has an inside bar with some 10 seats and a covered terrace with space for some 10 more guests. Prices are low: \$1.50 for an Amstel Beer and \$2.50 for an export quality Guinness from good old Ireland. A wide range of snacks and main courses can be ordered. Chinese food and local food is offered. Average price to pay is around \$10 for a meal. Ambiance is cozy and safe and very local. The view from the terrace is great: some traditionally built old houses and the shade of a bunch of old *wayaka* trees with their evergreen leaves, blue flowers and yellow seeds. Jimmy's Snack is well known for its take-away food and famous for its homemade lumpias or egg rolls. You can order them wrapped in a piece of paper or on a plate, with or without sauce. Money to pay is a humble \$2. Friendly owners, nice clients, safe and rustic place. ■ *Story & photo by Jan Brouwer*

BONAIRE ON WHEELS

This is the 133rd of a series of *Bonaire Reporter* articles by J@n –wear a helmet- Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles and persons that are "on wheels."
Up to at least 200 articles!



TWO BLACK AND BROWN MYSTERY TAR WAGONS

Bonaire/
Rincon/Kunchi –
For about a week now the windward skyline in between the village of Rincon and the Fontein Plantation is decorated by the impressive presence of two black and brown mystery wagons. Years and years ago I had seen those iron four-wheelers, but soon the trees from the remote outback took over. Last week a gentleman was cleaning the terrain along the Kaya Rincon/Kaminda Onima and the landmark became visible again. I parked my bike and asked the gentleman about the vehicles. He said they had been there for ages and, in those days they were used to heat and transport the tarmac or bitumen to cover the new road to Rincon.



The two trailers are made of heavy sheet metal and cast iron parts. All elements are firmly riveted together. These extraordinarily heavy trailers are very old and rusty, but there is still plenty of weight able to be carried by the four, eight-spoke solid iron wheels. Mystery trailers. On one of the vehicles the word "Obrero" is written or painted, Papiamentu for laborer.

Later that day I stop my bike again to have a necessary sip at Stephen Snack, Kaminda 32A. The owner knows about the tarmac trailers. They must have been there for at least 40 years. In those days the old road to Rincon was behind his snack, a little closer to the wild coast.

I like the photogenic view of the brown and black trailers in front of the blue Bonairean sky. Let's hope this historical landmark will be allowed to stay... (To be continued.) ■ *Story & photo by Jan Brouwer*



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REMEMBERING "JACK"

Dear Editor:
Webster's dictionary describes paradise as "any place or state of happiness." My definition of paradise is Bonaire; first of all the people of Bonaire and second the beauty of the country and the ocean. When I was recently in Bonaire for the memorial for my fiancé, Jack Chalk, I was overwhelmed at the love, respect, and affection for this man. I was overcome with emotion as so many poured these same feelings over to me and comforted me as I grieve the loss of the love of my life.



Jack Chalk was truly one of a kind. He had a passion for the work he did, not only with Capt. Don's Habitat, but also with the

different organizations that he led to improving and protecting Bonaire and the ocean life around it. He was not one to brag, nor even talk, about the work he did to make your beautiful island one of the best in the dive and tourism industry. In fact, many of the things he accomplished I did not even know about until his death.

Returning to Bonaire was very difficult for me, and I want to thank each one that made my trip so amazing. So many had a hand in showing me the island of Bonaire that Jack told me about and wanted me to see. The memorial service was beautiful, and I know that Jack was there in spirit; after all, he kept knocking his picture over! Lol!

The music was soothing to the soul and the friends who shared their memories gave insight into the man he really was. I was so humbled by the announcement that there is to be a plaque in memory of Jack and his work there. I hope I can return when this is dedicated to him.

My week in Bonaire was a turning point as the breeze and the sound of the ocean calmed and soothed my soul, and God showed me that my life is much richer and fuller because of Jack and his love for me. The wonderful day of sailing and snorkeling gave me a brief glimpse into the underwater beauty that he loved so much. It is understandable why Jack was so passionate about protecting this environment.

Part of my heart is and always will be in Bonaire. I love the island, the people, the friends, and the family that God blessed me with through Jack. Thank you again to all who made my grief a little lighter, my days much brighter, and my life so full of memories of the man I love. God bless each and every one of you.

Jenny Choate
Fiancé of Jack Chalk

DIVING VS. KITING

Dear Editor,
My husband and I regularly vacation on Bonaire for several weeks during the winter. We stay in the Belnem area and are very familiar with the area and the shoreline between Belnem and Pink Beach.

Recently, my husband noticed that there was a group of about 8 kite surfers who were surfing at various times from Salt Pier south to about The Rock area. This occurred from 3:15pm to 4:45pm. At this time in the afternoon, there were many divers and snorkelers in the water. For much of the time that the kite surfers were in the area, they were inside the reef drop off.

In addition to this incident, we have noticed that there is a kite surfer who regularly enters the water near the Salt Pier in the morning and many times in the afternoon. This kite surfer also often surfs near the shoreline inside the reef drop off.

Obviously, when the kite surfers are not a safe distance outside the reef drop off, it is very dangerous for divers and snorkelers in the area. We understand that there are regulations in place that prohibit kite surfing activities inside the reef drop off. However, these regulations are not enforced.

We feel that enforcement needs to take place immediately before someone gets hurt or worse. We, respectfully, would like to understand your plans for dealing with this dangerous situation.

Tricia and Larry Egger

DOUBLE DUTY

Dear Editor,
In the "Save The Plantation" article it states that the new football field next to the WEB Nobo office is only frequented by goats and donkeys. I walk my dogs past that field every day and it is true that the field is rarely used during the daytime when it's scorching hot, but it is extremely popular every evening. I'm in support of conserving this interesting piece of history but the sports park is a great addition to this area. Having the Plantation integrated into the new design would be the most ideal solution in my mind.

Amboina Resident



On Monday February 24, Captain Don Stewart and Maria's Goeloe's family and friends gathered at *Kas Di Sosiego* to celebrate Maria's 90th birthday. Maria was one of the Captain's first employees when he began a dive hotel on Bonaire. Don remembers that Maria agreed to work for him without pay in the earliest days of Captain

Don's Habitat while waiting for the first Habitat guests to pay their diving and room charges.

Don thanked Maria for "52 years of friendship that cannot be broken."

In the photo: Captain Don, Marie Goeloe, and her son Otmar Goeloe. ■Janet Thibault



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12th Annual Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon

This was a banner year for the Walk-a-Thon, the Special Olympics Bonaire's major fund raiser: 700 tickets were sold. (At the first Walk-a-Thon in 2003, 209 tickets were sold, last year, 587.) At 5 am down at the Slave Huts a big group of determined walkers, bikers, even roller-bladers set off for the 30 kilometer trek to Rincon to the Pasa Dia. An early morning rain shower cooled the air and the participants had a perfectly beautiful trek. Eight stands manned by volunteers offered them water, fruit, *pan dushi* and encouragement. Other participants joined along the way. At the end everyone received a certificate and a filling lunch thanks to Benny Anthony and his cooks and an opportunity to sit down, take off their shoes and commiserate with friends. The first walkers to finish were "Road Runner" Nazario Alberto and Herman Winklaar. Special this year was Walk-a-Thon founder, awesome fund raiser and coach Elizabeth Wigny who resides in Europe but came for the event.

Because of such an outpouring of community support Bonaire's team has been able to participate in the Caribbean qualifying games and all the Special Olympics international games so far: Ireland (2003), China (2007), Greece (2011) and next year, 2015, Los Angeles, California. Bonaire may be a small island but it has a big heart. Bonaire sponsors 12 athletes: 6 girls, 6 boys. They participate in Track and Field, Bocce and Swimming. ■ *Story & photos by Laura DeSalvo*



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Helmets On Wheels

This is the 27th of a series of Bonaire Reporter short articles by J@n Brouwer, about helmets and helmet awareness.

Hato/Bonaire – Thursday, March 6th.

On a regular basis you see them racing, flying or cruising by: cyclists on the road—especially early in the morning and late in the afternoon when the sun does not burn that much anymore and the tarmac is not that hot.

Recreation on a bicycle is good for your mental and physical health. And the three Bonaireans in the photo know. They love the technology of their bikes, they love the island and the nature and they are aware of the risks of the many potholes in the road and the air-flow of passing cars and huge trucks. That is why they wear special lightweight helmets.

Ibi de Palm, left, is the proud owner of a hand-made red classic William Frank “Sandy” Holdsworth racing bike, made in the early 70s in London, England, and delivered by racing champion Eddy Merckx. In the middle, Javon May with his white aluminum Giant Rincon with front suspen-



Ibi, Jevon and Cedric: three responsible cyclists.

sion. Right: Cedric Daal with his flat black German-made carbon Haibike racing bicycle. Three happy and smart people wearing helmets. Thumbs up!

(At this moment some five motorcycle-, scooter- and bicycle-helmets are “in stock.” If you are in the need of a helmet, you can have one for free. Just stop in Hato, Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot 166. It’s the house with the bouncing helmets in the tree.) ■ Story & photo by Jan Brouwer

2013 Picture Yourself Winner



Picture Yourself Winner, Sharella Coffi Jansen (right) receives the first prize from Reporter Editor Laura DeSalvo. The prize is a dinner for two at the Sonia Home Restaurant. Sharella’s photo (at right) was taken in London, England, next to one of the Queen’s horse guards. Sharella says she always travels with *The Reporter* so she can snap a winning photo. ■



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Word on the Street

Hats off to the Bonaire Police PR Department. During the past few months that have been releasing comprehensive "crime reports" almost daily. Unhappily they report at least one or more thefts or break-ins in just about every release.

- Many American ex-pats and tourists are often heard to say they crave a restaurant that serves just basic Mexican fare...tacos, burritos, tortilla soup, chips and salsa, etc. Rumor has it a Mexican restaurant will be one of the eateries opening in the space formerly occupied by City Café. Wonder if it will be some nice, simple Mexican food?

- Word on the street from an employee on one of the larger cruise ships was that the ship was barely at half capacity on its visit here a few weeks ago. Bookings are reportedly down from last season.

- Spring forward! If you're calling the US or watching American TV, remember that Daylight Saving Time began on Sunday, March 9. Bonaire now shares the same time as the US east coast. Holland begins their version of DST on March 30.

- Gossip has it that Bonaire Food Group (BFG) has new management...sort of. Jeroen from Warehouse Supermarket is rumored to be the new manager at BFG. (Gerard van den Tweel owns BFG, Warehouse and van den Tweel Supermarket).

- On line sources report that Minister of Kingdom Relations Ronald Plasterk has advised the Dutch Parliament that the EU research report into possible fraud in the Bonaire sewer project (kloaka project) is complete. However, as of now the report is confidential and will only be available to Parliament members.

- Beginning March 10, all Dutch passports issued to those 18 years and older will be valid for 10 years instead of the current five-year validity and will be a new style of passport. Because of the change in style, it will take a little longer to obtain the new passport and, according to a Dutch government website, will be more expensive if obtained "offshore."



- On Wednesday, March 5th police received a report around 17:20 am of two cruise ship tourists missing on Klein Bonaire. Later, STINAPA rangers found them and brought them to their ship.

- Carlos Winklaar of El Tigre and Carolina Bonaire International Seaport B.V. recently sent a press release to all local media. Winklaar states that he has been trying to get an answer from the local government for over three years about building a container port on Bonaire that is capable of offloading containers directly from a container ship. A container port on Bonaire, according to Winklaar, would result in a significant decrease in costs of importing goods and reduce high prices. He cites as example that any time the crane breaks down in Curacao, Bonaire containers must go to Aruba to be offloaded and the deviation increases the cost per container by an additional \$1,000.

- People having to use US Consular Services in Curacao have reported indifferent treatment by the US Vice-Counsel. On a recent visit at least six clients, although having confirmed appointments, were kept waiting for up to four hours. No explanation was offered and no apology was given.

- **Explanation:** The previous Word on the Street column said "Rumor has it the 911 (emergency) center here on Bonaire is seriously understaffed..." A communication from the RCN Press Office explained that during that period the dispatchers were receiving training to specifically increase their knowledge for the tasks they have to perform. ■

Bula Bonchi



Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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Picture Yourself On the Afsluitdijk, The Netherlands

Last year Marlene Moenadi, while on vacation in The Netherlands, had her photo taken with *The Bonaire Reporter* on the Afsluitdijk, the main enclosure dam connecting the northern tip of North Holland with the western coast of Friesland. It separates the IJsselmeer from the Wadden Sea. Reading *The Reporter* over her shoulder is the statue of Cornelis Lely (after whom the city of Lelystad is named). ■



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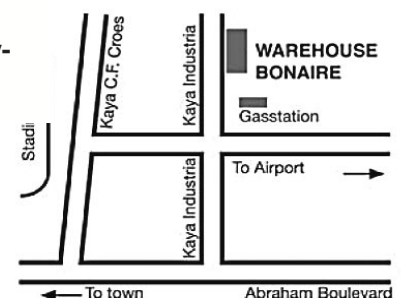
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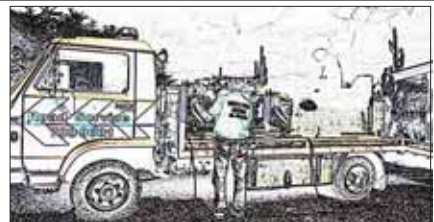
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One of Bonaire's most experienced massage therapists offers soothing or healing massages in your home.

Contact:

Inge Bruijn at Bonaire Massage Therapy

Phone: (+599) 795-4872

Email: ingebriijn@gmail.com

www.Bonairemassage.com

The Only Place on Bonaire for Vegetarian Ayurvedic food GoGreen at Bonaire Basics

Kaya Korona 47

Lunch served Tue. to Fri 12pm to 2pm

Reservations 700-5488

Wouldn't your ad look good here?

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

BRAND NEW Brooks Women's Pure-Cadence Running Shoe Color Black/Antracite/PurpleMagic Size 5.5 now erom \$ 99 for ONLY \$ 50,- Please call 785-0267 for more info.

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

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

1995 FORD EXPLORER, Manual transmission, Airco, Roof rack; good condition, Available April 4. Call 717-7312 for price and details.

VINTAGE TWR QUEEN SIZE WATER BED - frame made by TWR pioneer Chuck Roswell; sleep cooler without aircro bladder with baffle for more



Bonaire Reporter- March 10-24, 2014

Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 10		02:07 0.02 ft	08:23 0.77 ft	16:28 -0.13 ft	21:24 0.23 ft	6:46	18:45
Tue 11		02:43 0.04 ft	09:01 0.72 ft	17:09 -0.09 ft	22:05 0.23 ft	6:45	18:46
Wed 12		03:21 0.06 ft	09:40 0.66 ft	17:49 -0.05 ft	22:48 0.23 ft	6:44	18:46
Thu 13		04:04 0.09 ft	10:21 0.60 ft	18:27 -0.01 ft	23:34 0.25 ft	6:44	18:46
Fri 14		04:58 0.12 ft	11:05 0.52 ft	19:02 0.02 ft		6:43	18:46
Sat 15	00:20 0.29 ft	06:09 0.14 ft	11:57 0.44 ft	19:34 0.06 ft		6:43	18:46
Sun 16	01:06 0.34 ft	07:38 0.13 ft	13:00 0.37 ft	20:03 0.09 ft	Full Moon	6:42	18:46
Mon 17	01:49 0.41 ft	09:07 0.09 ft	14:12 0.30 ft	20:28 0.11 ft		6:41	18:46
Tue 18	02:29 0.49 ft	10:22 0.03 ft	15:24 0.26 ft	20:55 0.11 ft		6:41	18:46
Wed 19	03:10 0.58 ft	11:21 -0.04 ft	16:25 0.23 ft	21:27 0.10 ft		6:40	18:46
Thu 20	03:51 0.67 ft	12:09 -0.11 ft	17:14 0.21 ft	22:06 0.08 ft		6:39	18:46
Fri 21	04:33 0.76 ft	12:52 -0.17 ft	17:55 0.20 ft	22:51 0.05 ft		6:39	18:46
Sat 22	05:17 0.83 ft	13:33 -0.21 ft	18:34 0.21 ft	23:41 0.01 ft		6:38	18:46
Sun 23	06:03 0.88 ft	14:13 -0.24 ft	19:14 0.24 ft		L Quarter	6:37	18:46
Mon 24		00:34 -0.02 ft	06:50 0.89 ft	14:53 -0.25 ft	19:57 0.28 ft	6:37	18:46

firmness no bed bugs in a water bed solid hardwood frame and pedestal sacrificing for home care bed - good condition \$250 ready for pick up if interested, please call 786-0956

REAL ESTATE AND RENTALS

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 privacy. Rent price \$ 750 without utilities. Phone: 785-9900

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 furnished 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.

For Rent or Sale: 4 Bedrooms/4 Bathrooms Un-Furnished Spanish Colonial Style house for rent in Belnem. Big open space kitchen and 2 living rooms. Big garden with a nice porch. Appliances include: Dishwasher, Oven, Stove, Microwave, double Door Fridge, Water-Heater, Aircros in all bedrooms. USD 1850- per month. Available from March 15th. Please call +599-796-9559 for more info or send email to kjonsdot@sscinc.comAND

Apartment 52m² fully furnished two bedroom apartment in Belnem available from March 1. Garden and carport, Aircro in both rooms - USD 675.00 per month. Please call +599-796-9559 for more info or send email to kjonsdot@sscinc.com .They can also be rented together for USD 2,500.00/ Please call for selling price!

For rent: new home, Sabadeco / 1or 2 pers. ocean view terrace, excellent breeze, Furnished / 1 bedr / 1 study / 2 bath/ laundry / screens / solar boiler / TV internet Excl. WEB and TELBO: Price USD \$1280,- tel. 785-8719, email: eric.vandersar@gmail.com

Studios available at Hato near the beach, Kaya Utrecht 25. \$459 from 24 of March, now \$650, -- all included also no aircro there. Call 780- 1433 or 796- 2529. Ask for

Around the end of March Woodzz Design from Curaçao, specialized in making furniture, will offer, together with Kooyman, three courses of "Carpentry for Women" at Sorobon Beach.



The women students will be taught the basics of carpentry; theory about kinds of wood, measuring, painting but, most of all, hands on carpentry. They will learn how to use power tools.. The pieces of furniture the women make they can take home, stained, oiled or plain, as they please.

The course takes five nights and the ladies can choose among Monday, Wednesday or Friday nights. Costs are \$299 all inclusive. For more information contact; Ron Meekelm , tel.: 00 599 666 95 99 , info@woodzzdesign.com, website www.woodzzdesign.com

Need English-Dutch or D-E translation of (legal) letters, essays, ads, etc? Contact Bob and Karen (professor/attorney and language specialist) at 780--2173 or bobgilmour40@gmail.com

Certified English/Dutch Teacher: Individualized instruction. Improve speaking, reading, writing skills in Dutch-English and E-D. Cell: 780-4820 / (Karen) Email: karenruminski65@gmail.com

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

BHM Bonaire Hydro-test & Maintenance offers repair of Scuba Equipment, dive tank hydro testing pressure tests with computerized accuracy. Pickup and delivery too.

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.

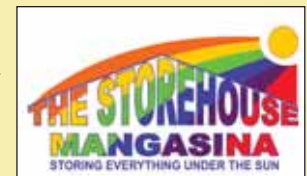
Jewel of Bonaire has custom made jewelry that complement Bonaire's outdoor oriented activities in addition to a great selection of watches, and precious metal items

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)

Karnaval 2014 Grand Parade

No matter what the economic, political or social climate people on the island go all out to demonstrate the excitement and allure of Karnaval. Costumes, makeup, floats were over the top. The time, effort and imagination to produce this parade is amazing.

This year there were 10 groups: FKPD; the Crazy, Happy People; FUKABO; Nos Bellisima; Uni Pa Gosa; the Precious Diamonds; the Friendly Family; Uni di Pura; Deseo di Pueblo; De Juk Duikers; the Diamond Pearls. Individuals participating: Richinel Cicilia, Ilse Meeraan, Jenny Reina, Raimeline Pop, and Vaneska Colmenares.

The Grand Parade was first held in Rincon, Saturday, March 1, then the following day in Playa. After a day of rest, Monday, March 3, the participants geared up again for the night-time parade on Tuesday, March 4, ending with the burning of "Momo," the spirit of Karnaval.
 ■ L.D. Photos by Herman van Leeuwen, upper right: Henk van Leeuwen photo



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www.greenlabelbonaire.nl

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07:30-12:00 & 14:00-17:30
Saturday 08:00-13:00

TUNG FONG STORE N.V.

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Kaya Korona 52 Tel. 599 - 717 4224 FAX. 599 - 717 5224

Opening hours: 8.30 am - 12.30 pm, 2.30 pm - 6.30 pm
Open from Monday till Saturday. Sundays closed.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Mondays, Mar. 10, 17, 24—Free Reef Fish Identification Seminars at CIEE on Kaya Gob Debrot, 6:30-8:30 pm .

REEF expert fish id'er, Kim White, lectures for anyone who wants to understand more about what they are seeing when diving and snorkeling.

Friday, March 14 - "Rastro," the second Aruba and Antilles Art Expo. (from Bonaire, artists Jackie Bernabella & Nochi Coffie) Opens at the Plaza Resort, 8-10pm. Other days during business hours.

Sunday, March 16 —Kaminda di Arte, 11am-4pm. Maps available at TCB, some shops & hotels . Various artists participate in different locations

Thursday, March 20-Vernal Equinox— beginning of spring (more on page 19)

Monday, March 17—St. Patrick's Day Party at Zazu Bar (Bistro de Paris), Harbour Village Marina. Dance, drink, dine. Guinness, Mulligan stew Irish Whiskey, Irish music. 5 pm-?

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

Sunday, April 6—36th Annual Kontest di Fli (Kite Contest). Fabulous, imaginative wild kites compete from Bonaire and Curacao. At the field behind Kooyman, 8 am-6pm,. For the whole family. Snacks, drinks, music. Sign up at Bonaire Book Store, 717-6586. More on page 3

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 and canteen. Behind the hospital. Open Monday-Saturday 8am-7pm. Free entrance.

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 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.

•**Petanque- Jeu de Boules,** 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

• **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. Call 786-6416 , email: info@bonaireyoga.coim

Fridays

•**Happy Hour party at Bistro De 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 Cruscita 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. Debrot. 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. ndt 25 (same street as Dr. Dorvil) Cell: 796-0721. email: iglesiadicristobonaire@gmail.com

Contact The Reporter if you want your event listed. Email Reporter@bonairenews.com, 786-6518

Cruise Ship Tentative Schedule

DAY	DATE	NAME	ARR/DEP	PAX	Cruise Line
Tuesday	11---Mar. - 14	<i>Vision of the Seas</i>	0800---1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Tuesday	11---Mar. - 14	<i>Thompson Dream</i>	0800---1500	1132	Thompson Dream CL
Tuesday	18---Mar. - 14	<i>Vision of the Seas</i>	0800---1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Tuesday	18---Mar. - 14	<i>Azura</i>	0800---1800	3080	P&O Cruises
Tuesday	25---Mar. - 14	<i>Vision of the Seas</i>	0800---1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Tuesday	25---Mar. - 14	<i>Emerald Princess</i>	1200---1900	3200	Princess Cruises

Makambas on Bonaire

Between 2002 and 2010 Dutchman Willem Vogelzang wrote three booklets, called Makambas on Bonaire parts 1, 2 and 3. They are composed of everyday events, tips about what to see and where to go, culture and anecdotes, seen through the eyes of a man with a whole lot of love for the island and a good sense of humor. It's a pleasure to share the experiences of a real people's person; a guy who is a bit of a filibuster and a lover of music, painting, languages, cultures and fun.

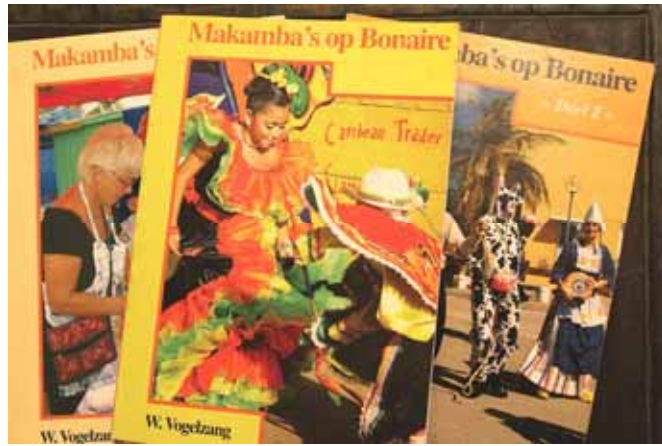
"I knew Bonaire from when I was 18, when I sailed here to bring general cargo with the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company. I remember it as a very small and dusty island with absolutely nothing to do...

I retired at 55 from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and my wife Ingrid and I ended up on Bonaire. It was 1994. Because of the grandchildren I couldn't convince Ingrid to live here permanently. It was a no go, but she was willing to come with me when it was wintertime in Holland. Life on Bonaire was easy-going and everything was flexible; it really appealed to me.

We bought two apartments on a big lot and built a house there. We stayed roughly four months a year and the rest of the time we would rent out the complex. But then we got a great deal and we sold everything when it was decided that we could stay here – in the house or the apartments – as long as we live. Just great!

After some years I wanted to share my everyday life experiences on Bonaire with others, nothing complicated. You're on Bonaire, what is it you hear, how do you feel, who do you meet - the people and the birds and the bees and all the other creatures - and how do you spend the day when you're not working, because you have to do something - otherwise you go nuts! So I like gardening and I joined a couple of bands because I play the guitar and saxophone. I translated some Mariachi songs and with the help of Piloto I made some CDs and I painted and I had a permanent exhibition at Kontiki.

After I'd written the first booklet I had it read by our friend Malvina from Rose Inn and by Sidney Manuel, the contractor, and they liked the stories. 'Yeah, this is how



the Makamba sees it!' I never had the intention of being Mr. Know-It-All. It was just my impression about life on Bonaire.

But there was one remark which always came back to me: 'Makambas are rude, crude and blunt,' and that remark came from local people who did have a hard time telling me so. And you know what? I think they're right. I've travelled all over the place and in the greater part of the world it's customary not to bungle things in 15 minutes and not to come to conclusions right away. First you eat together, you talk about their family, about your family and just for a second you mention the subject you came to discuss. By the second or third visit there's a chance that you can do business. And that's how the world turns in China, in Indonesia, Latin America and North Africa. Nobody speaks their mind the minute you meet someone, nobody vents their opinion, nobody asks impertinent questions. It's a matter of being civilized and the Dutch are not really good at it.

Well, I didn't have a publisher and then I met Wil Schut of Flamingo Communications. He told me he wanted to print it and also publish it. I didn't care about the money as the connection with Wil was more important to me. And it has never been an issue as I could always get as many books as I wanted for family and friends. Addo is selling them now and of the first book 2,000 issues were printed. No idea about the numbers 2 and 3.

When the idea about the BES (Bonaire, St. Eustatius, Saba) came up I wanted to write about it, not what I felt, but what the people thought of it. It was - and still is - a sensitive topic and the opinion of the local people is very important and interesting to

me. I am not a politician and I am ashamed to say that I do not know the rights of it - but things really have to change – starting from today, not tomorrow.

And it would be good if every self-respecting Dutch person – including me – would be obliged to deepen themselves into the situation. Poverty on Bonaire is for real and it's everywhere, but you don't see it. People don't live on the street, but there are many terrible and distressing cases

Lately it seems that there are two groups on the island and I really feel that I'm less welcome, not amongst the people whom I know, but with the people on the street. For Ingrid it's different - she doesn't feel it. I know I am an uncouth Dutchman, but I have a good heart. I like to drink beer at the Divi Divi Bar and go to Lac to dance



Willem Vogelzang and his lovely wife Ingrid

the Merengue and I speak Papiamentu fairly well, but even if I lived here for a thousand years – I am not a Bonairean. You know, during my career I lived in Saudi Arabia and I spoke the language. I became a Muslim and I went to Mecca for the unofficial Hajji, but I never became an Arab and that's how it is. We are who we are.

I am almost 76 and I just love to write – to leave something behind for my children to say, 'That's who he was...' and for my grandkids I am just their crazy grandpa and that's okay. But nowadays there's one thing I don't want to be and that's The Makamba on Bonaire. I've been here too long and it never felt like that before." ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra

New Bonaire Ambassadors

The TCB is pleased to recognize **Jon and Carol Nickerson** with a gold medal for 29 consecutive years of visits to Bonaire.

The Nickersons, from Sunnyvale, California, first came to Bonaire aboard their sailing yacht, *Zippidy-Do-Da*. On their last visits the couple were Sand Dollar guests.

Press release.G.D.



Helen Thode of the TCB and Mike Gaynor congratulate Jon and Carol



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Pet of the Week

Zachary... Mr. Golden Eyes

Handsomeness Zachary has the most beautiful "golden" eyes of any cat you'll probably ever see. He arrived at the Shelter as a young kitten in July 2013. He was scrawny and not particularly attractive. Since that time he has blossomed into an extremely handsome, smart and affectionate young man. His chest and belly are white and he wears a beautiful "hood and saddle" of brown, grey and black tabby stripes.

Zachary is a wonderful "companion" cat. He loves to be around people but is never intrusive or demanding of your attention. He is more than happy to just sit next to you while you do whatever it is that needs doing...but a couple of strokes now and then would be greatly appreciated! A favorite diversion for Zachary is to get to a place that is eye level with a human and just sit and "talk" with you. Of course, you do the talking...he just watches, blinks in acknowledgment and requests a few head bumps or pets if you're up for it.

"Mr. Golden Eyes" is about one year old, sterilized, and in perfect health. He gets along famously with all his Shelter roommates, but is more than



photo by Laura DeSalvo

content to play on his own....Not a moving toy, fly or "crawly thing" gets by him, so your home will likely be rodent and bug free if he's around. Zachary would be a delight to have as your feline friend, come meet him and see if you agree. He and all his Shelter compatriots welcome visitors Monday through Saturday, 8am to 1pm, 3 to 5pm, Lagun Road 26. Tel. 717-4989. ■ Jane Madden-Disko

Shelter News

Do you or someone you know have unsterilized cats or dogs around that you would like to keep but don't want to have multiply? Did you know that you may bring them into the Shelter to have them sterilized free of charge? You may even borrow one of their "Have-a-Heart" traps for transport. Recently a gentleman brought five of his cats into the Shelter for sterilization. He likes having them in his garden, as they take care of the mice, rats and lizards, but he doesn't want them having families. Five is enough! Because they're all a little wild he borrowed a "Have-a-Heart" trap, caught all of them, one at a time, had them sterilized, took them home and now they are all living happily ever after. Call the Shelter at 717-4989 or just stop by.

The Underdog Program brings Shelter dogs into the prison so that prisoners may learn to train the dogs under the guidance of volunteer dog trainers. The pilot program with volunteers Carla and Gitta was so popular (there are now eight prisoners on the waiting list) that another session will begin soon with Martine and Patricia. It's a one-on-one experience. Two prisoners in the class each work with one dog. They meet and train once a week for three months.

The Underdog Program was a great success according to a prison staff member. "The prisoners were able to focus on training the dogs and develop a relationship with them, making them calmer and more relaxed," she said. "They're happier now." And as for the dogs, they have become more social, better trained and thus more adoptable.

The Underdog Program was the brainchild of Michael Gaynor and Shelter Head, Marlies Tiepel. ■ Laura DeSalvo

In the last issue of *The Reporter* there was a photo of a dog left behind—on a chain—by people who moved. The chain deeply cut into her neck. Luckily she was discovered and brought into the Shelter where her wounds were treated. Today, she's a new dog, called "Faye," and is a happy, healthy dog, living with a very kind couple and another rescued Shelter dog, "Jay."



Before

Faye's new owner writes: "Here are the new photos of Faye—full of trust and happiness with a lot of love, hugs, food and playing with Jay, new experiences like swimming, eating eggs and apples, sleeping with Jay on the same pillow. She's copying Jay's behavior, jumping up and down when we come home, sitting when she wants a treat, getting used to the camera, letting us care of her, fully trusting. It's great to see those wonderful dogs together—with no jealousy. There is enough love in the house for both of them. L.D."



After

Note: Antibiotic stain green



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
Second Half of March 2014

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You can make money if you concentrate on producing services that will make domestic chores easier. Talk to people who can give you important knowledge. You may have problems with skin, bones, or teeth if you haven't been taking proper care of yourself. Difficulties with children will surface if you try to break a promise you made. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21– May 21) Have a heart-to-heart talk with family and find out what the problems are. Stabilize your own position by locking up your savings. Call a good friend. Be precise in your communications to avoid any misunderstandings and arguments. Your luckiest events will occur on a Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You may be frazzled this month. Jealous colleagues may try to undermine you. Don't bother getting even; they'll make themselves look bad. Use discrimination and play hard to get. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Sit back. Either way, you're up for a passionate encounter with someone special. You're intuitive this month; however, this attribute could get you in trouble if you tactlessly say what you think. Be careful that you don't spend too much time with a person belonging to someone else. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You can buy or sell if you're so inclined. Don't be too quick to judge your loved ones. Moves will be hectic but favorable in the end. Hold your temper and refrain from doing anything that might cause injury. Your luckiest events will occur on a Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You will be able to enlist the help of colleagues who believe in your ideas. You can make career changes that may put you in a much higher earning bracket. You might find it difficult to control your emotions. You may need a physical outlet that will help you relieve your tension.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Short trips may be tiring but rewarding. Don't evade important issues; you may find yourself backed into a corner. You can get support from groups that you belong to if you're willing to step out on a limb and voice your opinions. Look to a close friend for advice. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) This is not the best time to take a risk, to gamble or spend money you really can't afford to part with. Plan to get together with someone special later in the day. Make changes to your living quarters that will please the whole family. Be honest if you wish to solve the problem. Your luckiest events will occur on a Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Organize all the responsibilities that have to be attended to and make sure everyone knows what to do. Visit those less fortunate than yourself; be sure to help them with their personal problems. Don't let situations get out of control. Try not to donate to organizations if you can hardly afford to take care of yourself. Your luckiest events will occur on a Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) A change of attitude has probably disrupted your home environment. Your emotions may be hard to control if your mate is forcing you to undergo drastic alterations in your relationship. Unrealistic promises will only get you in trouble. You can visit clients and make a big impression just by giving them some hands-on help. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Get involved in philosophic groups that will enlighten you. Concentrate on spending quality time with children. You may get upset with peers or relatives. Be careful when dealing with investments. Your luckiest events will occur on a Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Your home environment appears to be a little shaky. If you take on too much, you will find your self in martyrdom. You can convince others to follow suit. Investments will not be as they appear this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday. ■

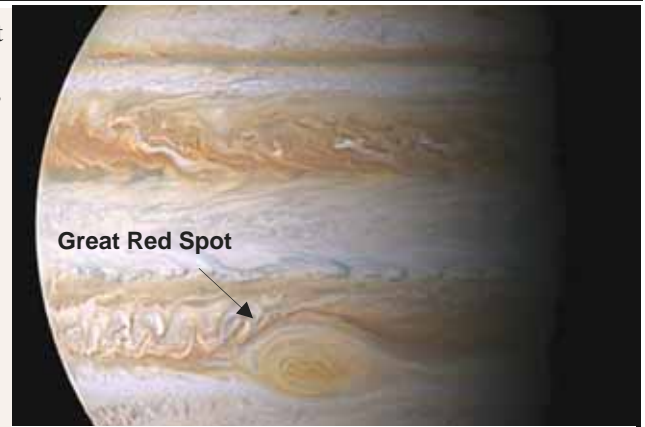


BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

SPRING IS HERE

The astronomical start to Spring — the **Vernal Equinox** — occurs at 12:57 pm Eastern time March 20. That's the moment when the **Sun** appears to cross the **Equator** into the **Northern Hemisphere**. For the next three months, as our hemisphere gets its turn to tilt toward the Sun, we'll gain more light and warmth. Conversely, the **Southern Hemisphere** moves into **Autumn**.



Great Red Spot

Jupiter close up

As we move into the even drier dry season in the Sky Park it's easy to spot a few bright planets. When night falls, the sky reveals that **Jupiter** still loiters in the **Gemini constellation**. It rises in the northeast just before 1 pm in the afternoon now, which means that by sunset, the fat, gaseous giant is already high in the southeastern sky.

Jupiter is hard to miss at negative 2.4 magnitude (very bright). The portly **waxing gibbous Moon** cruises under Jupiter on March 10. By the **Ides of March**, the planet crosses due south about 8:20 pm. Like connecting the dots, draw a straight line from Jupiter down to **Sirius, the Dog Star** (negative 1.46 magnitude, very bright) in **Canis Major**. The large H-shaped constellation **Orion** stands to the west, or right, of that imaginary line.

Although Jupiter is now well past **opposition** it is still a good month to observe this giant of planets. Though Jupiter's angular size falls from ~42 down to ~38 arc seconds throughout the month, a small telescope can see lots of detail. It is looking somewhat different than in the last few years as the **north equatorial belt** has become quite broad. **The Great Red Spot** has recently become more prominent and can be easily seen as a large feature in the **South Equatorial Belt**. The features seen in the **Jovian atmosphere** have been changing quite significantly over the last few years - for a while the South Equatorial Belt vanished completely but has now returned to its normal wide state

Colorful encounters: Our red neighbor, **Mars**, saunters through the sky in the **Virgo constellation** and is close to the blue star **Spica**. Mars, at zero magnitude, rises about 9:30 pm now in the east-southeast. This planet remains visible throughout the night, as early risers can scope Mars in the southwest before sunrise.

If you're looking for rings, **Saturn** rises about midnight now, ascending the east-southeast. The planet will be nearly 30 degrees above the southeastern horizon about 3 am. Early risers can spot this other giant before sunrise in the southern heavens.

Like a gem worn by Academy Award nominees, the planet **Venus** oozes radiance in the morning sky. Our gorgeous neighboring planet — the other neighbor — rises in the southeastern sky just after 4 am and becomes high enough to see long before sunrise. It's a negative 4.7 magnitude, very bright, around mid-month. The thin, **waning Moon** passes Venus on the morning of March 27.

Last weekend the US returned to daylight saving time, when they moved clocks forward one hour at 2 am — which becomes 3 am. In Bonaire we do not play with our clocks since the difference in the length of days is not extreme. ■

Washington Post / G.D.

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

Sudoku Solution

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

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