

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE April 7-21, 2014 - Year 21, Issue 8
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



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Statia politician **Julian Woodley will replace outgoing current Dutch Government Representative Wilbert Stolte on May 1st.** Mr. Woodley will be operating as acting Kingdom Representative (*Rijksvertegenwoordiger*). This will last until a new Kingdom Representative has been appointed by the Dutch Cabinet. In order to be able to begin his tasks, Mr. Woodley spent some days on Bonaire two weeks ago. He had meetings with the heads of the departments of the RCN, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Chief of the *Korps Politie Caribisch Nederland*, the acting Governor of Bonaire and the Executive Council. Mr. Woodley plans to perform his tasks from St. Eustatius and to visit Bonaire periodically.



►Mid April is all about deadlines. **-April 15 is the deadline for filing local (BES) income tax.** **-The long-delayed ruling in the Zambizi case- the financially related charges against former UPB Party leader Ramonsito Boi and Commissioner Burney El Hage-** is expected by Judge Irma Lips.

-A court hearing on the objections filed by the Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) is opposed to **the building of a new pier at Karel's Beach Bar. Scheduled for April 16.**

►The Kingdom Conference that ended last week in Aruba yielded some important to Bonaire results. An agreement was reached on establishing a taskforce to improve children's rights, to work on more cohesion in the Kingdom and to **look into a free trade zone on the islands of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.**

►A flamingo believed to be the oldest of its kind in the world has died at the age of 83 in Australia. "Greater," the flamingo was put to sleep on Friday due to complications brought about by arthritis and old age, officials at Adelaide Zoo said. They have far shorter life spans in the wild.



►The flamingo, named after its species, arrived at the zoo in 1933 and was a popular attraction. "Although this is an extremely sad loss for us all, it was the right thing to do," zoo officials said, adding that there was no treatment that could have improved the flamingo's quality of life. (Thanks to Ernst van Vliet)

►Thanks to Rocargo, Amcar and Customs for expediting the shipment of gifts for youngsters participating in the "Open Heart Ministry" directed by Marie Elena Domacassé. The goods were donated by the Handicapped Scuba Association of New Jersey under the leadership of Stew Snyder of the Wounded Warriors.

►Last week it was announced that the common Bonaire Donkey is a direct ancestor of the endangered Nubian wild ass (*Equus africanus africanus*), a subspecies of the African wild ass. The ass was domesticated about 6,000 years ago, probably in Egypt or Mesopotamia and brought to Bonaire during the colonial period hundreds of years ago. What makes it interesting is that the Nubian wild ass is most likely extinct in the wild since the 1950s. However, the IUCN Red List still mentions it as critically endangered. More details of the situation are elsewhere in this edition.

►As a result of the suspension of the ongoing donkey round-up contract, **people who have donkeys in their possession in anticipation of the \$20 bounty promised should release them immediately.**

►Beginning on April 15, **police will be checking for 2014 stickers on Bonaire license plates.** If you haven't gotten one for your car visit the tax office downtown with proof of valid insurance and ID and pay for either a half-year or full year. Drivers are reminded that an official license plate is a must. Hand lettered license plates are not acceptable.



►Delta Airlines will add an additional weekly flight to and from Atlanta on Fridays, effective August 22, providing Bonaire with a Friday-Saturday pattern for the fall and early winter. Delta will operate a 737-800 on the flight with 16 Business Class seats and 138 coach seats. The schedule will be the same as on Saturday:
DL flight 663 depart ATL 9:45am, arrive in BON 1:55pm
DL flight 662 departs BON 3:59pm, arrives

►The Central Bureau of Statistics noted that the life expectancy at birth in the Caribbean Netherlands for men and women is 80.2 years as of 2012. This is 0.9 of a year lower than in the Netherlands. At age 65, the difference in life expectancy is only 0.1 of a year.

►Anticipate a slowdown in the renovation of Kaya Nikiboko South because of the installation of new pipelines and cables, while the roundabout at Kaya Kanari is set to be completed around April 11. The south branch of the roundabout with Kaya Nikiboko South from the roundabout v / d Tweel to new roundabout at Kaya Kanari will still remain closed to carry out the rest of the work.

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Can Bonaire Meet the Donkey Challenge?

Seeing a donkey is Bonaire isn't very unusual. Even endangered species, like parrots and sea turtles can be commonplace here. Now it turns out that our "common" donkey seems to be a rare Nubian ass, another endangered species. And only 200 of them were thought to be alive in their African homeland. But there are perhaps 800 more on Bonaire. Chalk up another success for the isolation of the island of Bonaire for help in preserving what is rare elsewhere. This discovery was made public last week and changed the rules on how the island has to manage its donkeys.

Now efforts to reverse the government-approved "final solution" of locking up all female and young donkeys and setting free newly-castrated males is gathering momentum. Prominent equine geneticist, Dr. Gus Cothran of TAMU (Texas A & M University), a world-class expert in Equine DNA, discovered that the parts of the Bonairean donkey's DNA he profiled are a perfect match with that of the endangered Nubian ass. The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List says the Nubian ass is critically endangered. It supposed that only 200 or so remain alive... until now.

Suddenly Bonaire is faced with an environmental challenge. How to deal with its stewardship of still another endangered species? Island NGOs Sea Turtle Conservation (STCB) and Echo (parrots) have raised awareness both on and off island of the spe-

cies they shield from harm as best they could. STINAPA safeguards the reef. All without significant government support.

Currently the only organization caring for the donkeys has been the Donkey Sanctuary (aka Donkey Safari Adventure Park), but that was focused on protection of individual donkeys, helping to eliminate roaming donkeys and not preserving a species in a natural environment.

Roaming donkeys have been part of the Bonaire scene as long as anyone can remember. Brought to Bonaire centuries ago as beasts of burden they were a part of the work force of Bonaire up until the arrival of automobiles about 60 years ago. Without jobs to do and people to care for them they took to the *mondi*, the island's outback and fended for themselves.

In recent years the numbers of these gentle animals increased so much that they began to be considered a nuisance- knocking over trash cans, eating natural vegetation and landscape plants and causing auto accidents. Donkeys and people were injured, or died as a result. Motivated by concern for the animals several individuals took action to care for the donkeys and shelter them. The most notable efforts were begun by **Marina Melis** who founded the island's donkey sanctuary and **Al Catalfumo** who ran an informal donkey "hospital" in Hato.

There is little doubt that the efforts of the Donkey Sanctuary over more than 20 years have brought many of the animals back to



Internet photo

Do these donkeys look familiar? These is a photo of wild African Nubian asses.

health and made life better for many donkeys. Confining the donkeys was the initial approach to solve the "donkey problem." In 1993 Marina Melis and her husband Ed Koopman, established a donkey sanctuary on Bonaire for sick, wounded and orphaned donkeys. Since then the Sanctuary has expanded significantly.

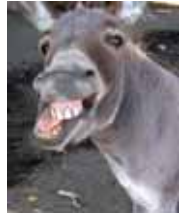
The objective of the Donkey Sanctuary was to offer a sheltered, protected life to all the donkeys of Bonaire. Secondly it was to increase awareness in the local community and to provide a tourist attraction to raise funds to keep the sanctuary operating. In 2003 the Sanctuary received government financial support to fence in a large area to contain the donkeys. In 2012 more government money allowed relocation and a further expansion of the fenced area to accommodate the increasing number of wild donkeys. More money was allocated last year and the Sanctuary contracted to capture all Bonaire donkeys and either confine them,

or euthanize them if they were sick or weak, or castrate, tag and release them if they were males.

"The Citizens for a Better, Safer and Animal Friendly Bonaire" began to explore alternatives to that plan that confined, euthanized and castrated donkeys. They consulted with experts in equine affairs and like-minded individuals in various countries and, in passing, discovered the DNA link to the endangered Nubian ass. And offered alternatives to solving the perceived donkey "problem."

The question now is how to proceed? The Netherlands is a signatory to every Endangered Species treaty. They have an ethical obligation to protect our donkeys.

The Bonaire Island Council took step one. It has already voted to suspend euthanasia and castration until further studies can be made. ■ G.D.



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On The Island Since... 2007 – Dr. Michael Hermelijn

Dr. Hermelijn's certificate from the Erasmus University of Rotterdam

Photo: Dr. Hermelijn's permit to open a medical practice on Bonaire

I was born in Paramaribo, Surinam, on March 28th, 1954. My father was the head of an accounting office and my mother handled the administration of LVV (agriculture, livestock and fisheries) in Paramaribo. In 1966 my father decided to continue his studies at a higher level in business administration so the whole family, my younger brother, sister and I, moved to Holland. I was about eight. We found a house in Bergschenhoek, a town close to Rotterdam. It was the end of March and still winter. We went to school in Ommoord, a neighborhood of Rotterdam, where we were the first immigrants – the only children from Surinam. That was us! I will never forget it! It's interesting how it works with children. We were immediately accepted and given a special status; nobody from the neighborhood or from another school was allowed to speak badly about us.

A year later we moved to the center of Rotterdam but we stayed at the same school where we had adapted and were completely accepted. We were never hassled or bothered by anyone and neither were my parents. But you see, we had adapted ourselves, that went without saying. In the beginning we did miss the freedom to roam around outdoors as in the fields in Surinam where we played as children. Holland had those little brick houses and a sandbox to play in and that was it. But we never complained. My parents raised us well, we were easy children – ha! They did a good job!

Then my grandmother came to join us and my mother started working again. My dad was doing the financial salary administration at *Het Vrije Volk*, a Rotterdam social-democratic daily newspaper. My mother worked for the writing room of the municipality of Rotterdam.

After elementary school I went to Mulo/Mavo high school and when my dad asked me what it was I wanted to become in life I said "I want to become a doctor." Then already. I was about 11 or 12 years old. But I was attending the wrong school if I wanted to be a doctor. So they tested me. The test results were: 'Michael is an average student and studying medicine would be way too ambitious for him. Please, try to explain this to him.' Then my father spoke to me, 'The outcome of the test is that studying medicine will be too difficult for you, so what is it you want?' And I answered, 'I want to study medicine.' My father answered, 'Where there is a will, there is a way, and I believe in you. You decide what it is you want to accomplish and a test is just a test. It doesn't mean a thing; it has to come from within!' But he also told me that it was going to be a hard road.

So I finished Mavo, then Havo, then VWO. My dad helped me tremendously by paying for my extra lessons from the LOI institute. When I graduated from VWO with an average of 6.9 there was a procedure common in Holland when there are too many applicants for a particular course, students are chosen at random. Well, I wasn't one of them so I had to wait another year, but the second year I wasn't chosen either, nor the third year. For three years I worked at the postal service where I learned a lot about people and the way society functions. I told my father, 'I think it's time for me to do something else.' But my dad asked me,

'Do you still want to become a doctor?' and I said 'Yes.' When I wasn't chosen the fourth year, my parents took out a bank loan for 10,000 guilders and sent me to the RUCA, the University of Antwerp, Belgium, where I finally began my medical studies.

I passed the first year. My parents thought that with the 10,000 guilders they had paid for the entire five-year study, but it turned out it was 10,000 guilders per year. Well, they couldn't afford it and so I couldn't stay. Back in Holland I wasn't chosen for the fifth time. My mom had had it; she contacted the national ombudsman who wrote a letter to the Ministry of Education and through a hardship clause I finally got my place. They told me I was free to decide where I would study. I chose Erasmus University in Rotterdam.

I was 26 years old and I had lost a lot of time. It was a seven-year study to become a general practitioner and I did it in six years. And yes, I did miss a great deal of the student life because I could not let time be lost. I was 32 years old when I graduated.

“And when a Bonairean – someone who has a friendly and a rather quiet disposition and a not-so-outspoken attitude – stands up to protest, to help me... that says something. That is worth a whole lot.”

Why had I been so determined to become a doctor? You know, from when I was a little boy I've loved life tremendously – everything that comes with it. I love nature so much and I love animals and I also love people. I was always very interested in the way the human body was built and how it functioned. I collected anatomy images and stuck them in a scrapbook. I think the combination of interest and the love of all living things has driven me to become a doctor.

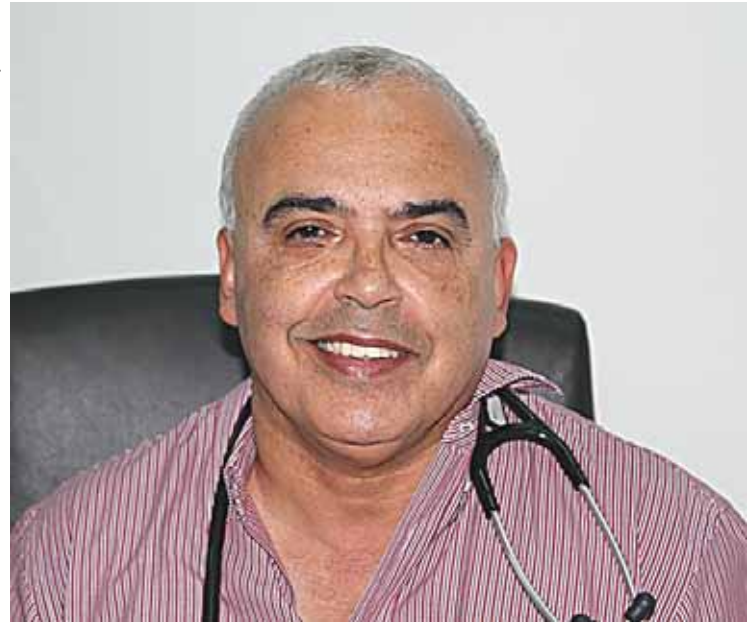
After I graduated I wanted to become an internal medicine specialist. It was difficult to find a place to train, but finally I was hired by pathologist **Dr. Boldewijn** at the Saint Clara Hospital in Rotterdam. There I learned all about anatomy, autopsies. It was very interesting, the way the body is built and the position of the organs. One cannot learn that from a book; you can only learn it by dissecting a corpse. I was so well trained that even though it was a difficult procedure I was hired by the Westeinde Hospital in The Hague, where I independently dissected 463 corpses without supervision. I gave pathology lessons to the clinic as well.

After two years I was asked if I wanted to become a pathologist. Of course I was interested, but I realized I didn't want to miss contact with the patients. So I moved on and started working in the west part of Rotterdam in psychiatric care. It was fascinating. I was the general practitioner on the only team of immigrants in Holland, a team which worked in trans-cultural psychiatry. If someone was becoming psychotic, the team - a GP and a psychiatric nurse - would immediately see the patient. I worked there till 1989.

And then I got the opportunity to work at the St. Elisabeth Hospital in Curacao as a medical doctor working under the supervision of **Professor Alejandro Saleh** in internal medicine. From September 1992 till 1995 I worked in the St. Elisabeth emergency room, headed by surgeon **Dr. Akker-**

man. During that time I was also filling in for other doctors on Curacao. In 1996 I was registered as a General Practitioner – a family doctor - on Curacao where I had my own – very busy – practice, consisting of 11,000 patients, till 2006.

Now," *he smiles*, "I was never married, but I do have a daughter, Nadine, who is 28 and lives in Holland. We have a good relationship, and recently I became the opa (grandfather) of a little girl, Michelle, who is now 1½. Of course I've had girlfriends –



Doctor Michael Hermelijn

December 2009), I then waived negotiations.

I received my establishment license on September 23d, 2010, and I immediately approached ZVK. I was told that their policy was 2,000 patients per doctor and as the population at the time was 16,000, eight family doctors were enough and so there was no place for me. Because of the fact that the amount of patients per doctor was not legally defined, I didn't agree to this point of view. Then ZVK did something unimaginable. They had the family doctors vote whether I could be in or not. How do you like that? The outcome of the voting was two doctors were for and six against. And ZVK concluded, 'Doctor Hermelijn will NOT get a contract!'

Well, in spite of repeated requests, I was told time and time again that there was no need for a ninth family doctor. I was still filling in for others and also I was appointed by the board of the new established GP (doctors) service as the medical director of this service. I took a course in hyperbaric medicine in the US and to date I am one of the doctors of the recompression chamber.

Although I didn't have a contract with ZVK, patients who were insured by ZVK were seen by me. I had about 1,100 patients from ZVK and nobody paid me, but I expected that I would receive the contract quickly. However, after a little while I was told by ZVK that they didn't have a contract for me. And that was it.

In November 2011 the population of Bonaire started a signature fundraising campaign because they want me to have a contract. Four thousand people signed and the signatures were delivered to the ZVK office. Their answer was, 'the Minister of Health has to decide – you will hear from us.' So far... no answer!

In August 2012 all the doctors were surprised to learn, through a backdoor, without consultation with the chairman of the general practitioners association, that the Ministry of Health gave permission to two Dutch family doctors to work on Bonaire. These doctors did not have a contract with ZVK, but they were hired by family doctors who had more than the permitted amount of patients.

It was clear that the family doctors were overloaded, because at night the doctor's service was packed with people who couldn't get appointments with their doctor during the day. Even the chairman of the board of the general practitioners association admit-

(Continued on page 5)



Dr. Hermelijn's medical degree—in Latin and Dutch

ted in a personal conversation with myself and Mr. Nico de Jong – the head of ZVK – that there was an overflow where good medical practice was in danger. Mr. de Jong said he would call a meeting and that I could assist the chairman – Dr. Bernabela – in her practice for the time being.

In December 2013 Dr. Bernabela was held accountable by ZVK for the fact that I was seeing her patients in my own practice. Also, I couldn't work simultaneously with Dr. Bernabela. To fill in continuously for Dr. Bernabela, whether simultaneously or not, I needed, according to ZVK, an exemption from the Ministry of Health. This exemption did not apply for doctors who were established before 10-10-10. A strange story – because I was already an established family physician.

It was brought up that the judicial department of ZVK had ascertained that the Island Council had tested all eight family doctors but not me. This is most remarkable because a judicial department should know that the Island Council does not have the authority to test because it's a legislative body.

The inspection also asked for the exemption while... the paper of exemption does not exist! I was given a warning three times and the last one said that if I couldn't present the exemption I was committing a legal offense. That email I received on Christmas Eve 2013. To make a long story short – this exemption did not exist before 10-10-10 and my other colleagues were never asked for it.

After the press conference I gave early

March I had a meeting with ZVK during which they told me they didn't know exactly what this exemption was all about. So I asked the Department of Health on Curacao and they told me that the exemption is nothing more than an endorsed certificate – with the signature of the Minister of Health – that one may exercise the medical profession on all islands of the (former) Netherlands Antilles. And that particular paper I had received in January 1996 when I established my practice on Curacao.

So, it appears that the Dutch officials were not properly informed about the situation before 10-10-10. In the meantime – through my lawyer – a letter was sent to the Minister requesting a care contract.

Presently I am filling in for Dr. Bernabela because of the overflow of patients and I am waiting. In spite of all this I feel it's still worthwhile to live on Bonaire because I am deeply touched by the reaction of the Bonairean people and my patients. They again allied themselves behind me and they made it clear that ZVK should stop harassing me. And when a Bonairean – someone who has a friendly and a rather quiet disposition and a not-so-outspoken attitude – stands up to protest, to help me... that says something. That is worth a whole lot." ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Emanuel Lont Tops In Chess

As a result of winning the children's End of the Year chess tournament 2013, Emanuel Lont will represent the BES islands in the Dutch Chess Championships in May (Nederlands Kampioenschap Schaken t/m 12 jaar categorie D). This is a first for the BES islands. Big congratulations to Emanuel. Quite a feat for a youngster. ■
L.D.



SNACK & SNACK JACK & CHICK

This is the second of a series of The Bonaire Reporter short articles by Snack Jack and Check Mate, about pubs, bars, snacks and little local restaurants.

GRACE PLACE IN PLAYA AND DELICIOUS SURINAM ROTI DISHES



Photograph: Check Mate

Unice Melchiot and Andrew SintJago and one of their three youngsters in front of Grace Place

Unice Melchiot, born in Surinam, and Andrew Sint Jago, born on Bonaire, opened their little Surinam restaurant in Playa some two years ago. The restaurant is at Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar 16c, close to Jong Bonaire and, more precisely, next to one of the little offices of Pavo Real and "En Ping," the Chinese bar-restaurant. Most locals know to find the restaurant of Unice, better known as Grace, and her partner Andrew. Most foreigners have to grab the map of Bonaire to find out where Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar is located in the city center of Playa/Kralendijk.

It is definitely worth a little research and investigation as the locally prepared Surinam food is fresh, hot, a little bit spicy and very affordable. You really can taste the love

Grace and Andrew put in their enterprise. There are no seats and tables inside the little restaurant. Outside there is only space for at the most eight persons. Fortunately there is shade against the wall of the traditional building of the restaurant and under the huge sun-brella. Grace Place is very well known among locals and during lunch time, just after 12, there is a real invasion of Bonaireans ready to get their pre-ordered take away meal. Best thing to do is go to Grace Place sometime around a quarter before 12. Then all meals and dishes are well prepared and sizzling hot. Grace Place is open from 9am to 6:30pm.

Grace Place is famous for her Roti dishes and her Pom. It is very hard to explain what exactly the Surinam kitchen is as Surinam has a blend of some 20 cultures: from China and India and Indonesia to the West Indies and Latin America to even the low lands of the Netherlands. The Surinam kitchen is a real fusion kitchen with real Dutch potatoes (brought by the Spanish from Latin America to Europe in the 17th century).

Drop in before 12 noon and order a Roti, a Pom or a Telo and surprise yourself for just a few bucks. For personal reasons Unice and Andrew do not serve alcoholic drinks. On the other hand they are that tolerant and you are more than welcome to order your Amstel, Polar or unspoiled Irish Guinness at the neighbors' En Ping bar-restaurant.

Well done, Unice and Andrew. Your Surinam restaurant is an enrichment for our society! ■ Story & photo by Snack Jack and Check Mate



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Testimony by a local victim:

"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."

Land House De Tuin Opens



Mick and his team at De Tuin

Last week the work/study center at Land House De Tuin (The Garden) opened with a brief ceremony and talk by Stichting Project founder Mick Schmit. The center includes a hostel (rates as low as \$26/day including breakfast and dinner), a restaurant and is off-the-grid solar powered.

There are 8 resident youngsters who work on outdoor maintenance and in the kitchen and apply the FORSA approach to life (see the T shirt).

On Sundays the popular Jamaican Jerk BBQ is available to the public from noon to 6 pm. ■ L./G. D.



Francisco and Braum in the kitchen

Lots Of Prizes From Budweiser Beer



The Budweiser team: Niels Voogd, Sales and Marketing; Meriam van Kampen-Scholtes, Best Brands; Jarrod Daykhuizen, Budweiser Rep; Ruthsela Jasephia; Charles Lont, Sales and Marketing; and Dianna Clementina

America's Budweiser beer has been gaining a foothold on Bonaire for about a year now and is putting on a big contest with outstanding prizes to commemorate the upcoming World Cup in Brazil this year.

Beginning this month, and each week for the next 15 weeks, people who save their bottle tops can enter a drawing whose top prize is \$5,000 and collect other awards along the way. These include 6-packs of Bud, FIFA (World Cup soccer) caps, T-shirts and soccer balls. The grand prize winner will be drawn on July 18, 2014, others will be rewarded each week.

Every six bottle tops of Bud from Bonaire Best Brands you get one entry. The more bottle tops you collect the more chances to win. ■ Press release



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Bonaire's Donkeys- Asset or Liability?

Look for more about the current donkey situation in Letters to the Editor and on page 3



In 21st century Bonaire- Where do Donkeys fit?

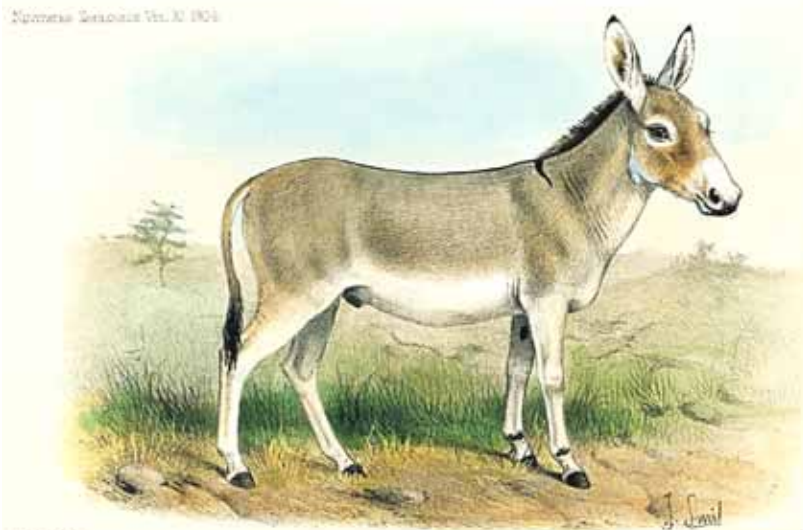


For centuries donkeys have been part of Bonairean life



About 22 years ago Dutch-woman Marina Melis founded the Donkey Sanctuary. Unquestionably she has protected, healed and rescued hundreds of Bonaire's donkeys.

Now she is being unfairly, many think, accused of collusion with a government plan to eventually eradicate donkeys from the island.



1904 drawing of a wild Nubian ass, Equus asinus africanus

Now DNA analysis profiled that a large portion of the DNA molecule of the Bonairean donkey is an exact match for that of the critically endangered Nubian ass

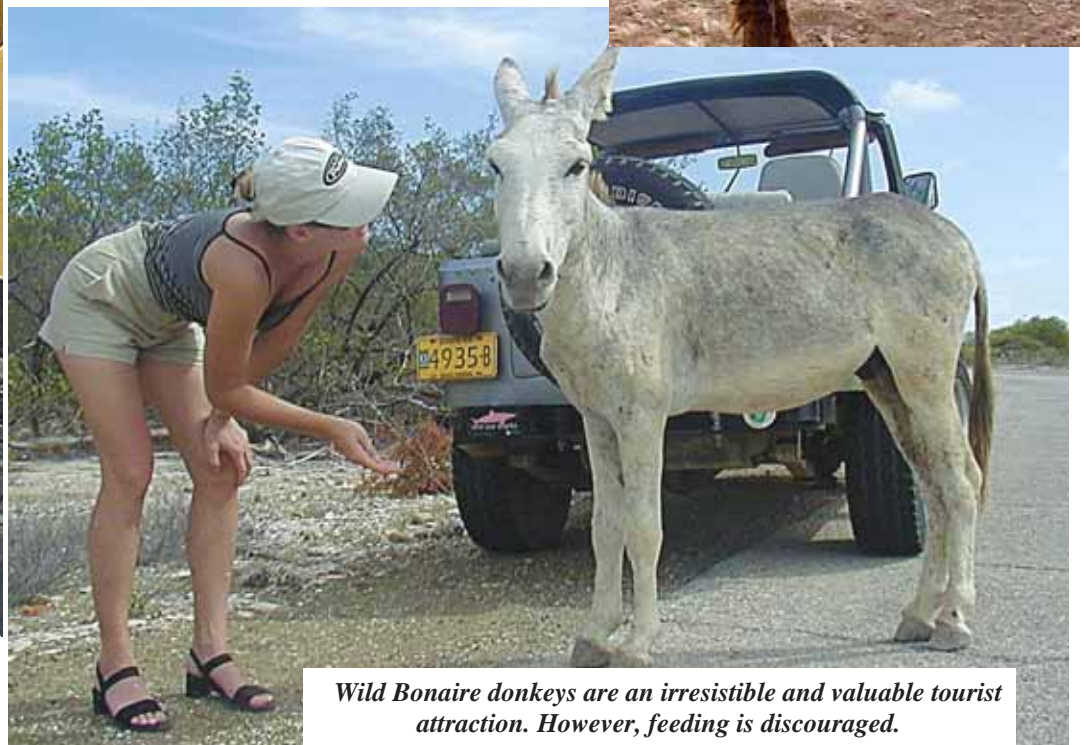


Above: Donkeys at the Sanctuary hoping for a handout from a visitor.

At right- One of the baby donkeys under treatment at the Sanctuary



Bonaire donkeys check out the MCB ATM machine downtown. Being an endangered species might give Bonaire donkeys privileges, but having a debit card shouldn't be one of them.



Wild Bonaire donkeys are an irresistible and valuable tourist attraction. However, feeding is discouraged.

Word on the Street



After a meeting with representatives of Bonaire supermarket owners, the government has put a temporary hold on enforcement of the maximum price regulation for 151 food items. The items are now back on the shelves in the supermarkets pending further meetings with importers, customs, tax office, etc. to discuss the issue. The price regulation on the food items was just phase one of the price control measures. Phase two was to be implemented within three months regulating additional food items (including coffee, juice, yogurt, butter, etc.). Phase three was to be implemented three months after that, to include cosmetics, medicines, cement and building materials.

◆ The Tourism Corporation Bonaire announced that for the first time **Carnival Cruise Lines will call at Bonaire starting in January 2015, for nine calls.** Carnival cruises will continue with more calls in 2016; Holland America will have ten calls

and Seaborne will have 4 in 2015. TCB is projecting a total of approximately 200,000 to 250,000 cruise passenger arrivals for the 2015/2016 season with a ceiling of 250,000 passengers in the high season.

TCB is also hoping to organize cruise ship calls in Bonaire during the low season which would make Bonaire a year-round cruise ship port of call.

◆ Information in local media indicates that the owner of the new "cruise ship mall" at the south pier is trying to convince the local government to **prohibit all unloading and loading of cargo until 11 pm on days that cruise ships are in port.** The mall will be opening soon, and while directed primarily at cruise ship passengers, during the off season it will need to attract land tourists and locals. There are plans for a restaurant that will remain open until 11 pm. The owner feels that the cargo activity will discourage people from shopping and dining. So, as Bula sees it, the groceries won't get to the store, but you can eat in peace at the restaurant!

◆ It seems that we are back to "square one" in the progress towards a new cargo port for Bonaire. The report from 2010 done by Royal Haskoning discussed seven possible locations for a new port that could cost €15 million and discussions in subsequent years haven't done much. The necessity of a cargo crane to unload container carrying ship unloading was brought forward.

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by Acting Lieutenant Governor Rijna and the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment last week did little more than inch the progress forward. Rather, the

MOU was about intent to do research on making the port authority more professional, to consider the capability of the current ports and a possible relocation of the cargo port. The anticipated opening of the new shopping mall and restaurants on the current freight pier may make the location of a cargo port critical during the cruise ship season.

◆ The spread of the mosquito borne **chikungunya, dengue-fever-like virus in the Caribbean continues** and the number of cases continues to climb. New cases have been reported recently in Aruba and St Lucia. Prepare, Bonaire, it is only a matter of time.

◆ The Dutch Caribbean is second only to the US in the number of prisoners per 100,000 people. The US imprisons 716 per 100,000, the Dutch Caribbean 700 per 100,000, the Netherlands 87 per 100,000.



◆ Supposedly there will be an **alternative to buying propane from Curoil** that will be open for business within two to three months. The new company, BonGas, will be located in the area behind Bonaco Gas station. They will have a variety of sizes of propane tanks, and they can be refilled at your location from a propane truck.

◆ The Bonaire Restaurant Association signed up with the new Bonaire Gas Company who plans to compete with Curoil in the distribution of cooking gas. The agreement was signed by **BRA President**

Patrice Rannou of Bisto de Paris and Vice President **Floris van Loo** of Rumrunners and BGC President **Herbert de Jongh**.

◆ Meanwhile...Curoil has announced their new campaign, "**1 Bashi, 1 Yen**" (one empty, one full). Beginning in May, Curoil will pick up residential consumers' empty tanks, send them to Curacao and they will be delivered back to you within two weeks. Clients who bought gas will be advised when Curoil trucks will be in their neighborhood to pick up the empties. Curoil says by the end of April the lack of the 100 lb. commercial tanks will be normalized. The scarcity of these tanks has been wreaking havoc with local restaurateurs.

◆ Rumor is that **The Wailers (Bob Marley's band) will appear at the Bonaire Heineken Jazz Festival.** But even if that's not true, Bula no worry, no cry...the line up will surely be great.

◆ Local media reports that a new stadium is under construction in the area of **Don Paranda (the Nikiboko North road to Sorobon).** Due to the new infrastructure system requirements, the new prison and the old stadium in Playa must move before the middle of 2015. The project has not received much publicity as many people did not believe that the project would come about as the budget was set at €8.8 million and it was put on hold. However, last November funds from USONA became available to finance the project. Some of the structure is already visibly under construction, made of aluminum and other composite. The stadium will hold 10,000 people and have special areas for large concerts and sports events. ■

Bula Bonchi



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DEFENDING THE DONKEY SANCTUARY

Dear Editor,

My husband, a retired veterinarian and myself, a four-year volunteer at the Donkey Sanctuary now have our second home on Bonaire. We are troubled by what we see as a smear campaign against (Sanctuary manager) Marina Melis and the sanctuary she established 22 years ago. We admire her dedication, hard work and love for the donkeys. Recently, the government wanted to destroy or ship to Haiti all the donkeys. It was Marina's petition and 12,000 signatures opposing that action that convinced the government to discuss alternate ideas. No one but Marina took action. Not perfect, the current program was the best solution at the time. The sanctuary, as a tool of the government, was enlisted to capture wild donkeys, neuter and release adult males, and provide food and care for the females and young. Marina now shelters over 500 donkeys.

It is time to stop demonizing Marina and her commitment, and work together for a comprehensive, well planned, humane solution to the evolving status of Bonaire's donkey population.

Karen Morena
Craig Morena, DVM

CAN THE BONAIRE DONKEY BE PROTECTED AS A NATURAL RESOURCE?

Dear Editor:

After reading a Bonaire Tourism brochure in 1990 Bonaire was selected as one of my first and now favorite dive destinations. The Bonaire brochure was appealing as the cover was the simple picture of a single child descending the stairwell of a govern-

ment building. This child was confident, independent and inspiring.

Through annual visits over 21 years, I learned of the Bonairean cultural values emphasizing conservation. It was easy to observe a balance of a sharing environment with rewards to people and the animals. In dialogue with others traveling to Bonaire many told of the attractions for water sports, leisure, biking but a notable attraction included scientific and educational research.

Bonaire, recognized as a world leader in conservation and protection of natural resources, provided a strong incentive to ecotourists interested in biodiversity.

Two years passed since my last visit to Bonaire. I learned even before my arrival there is a confusing change in Bonaire's approach (to donkeys). It is a plan disguised in the term "donkey control." Many define and have proof that "donkey control" is "extermination." It appears there has not been enough communication of this plan to the citizens and general public. There has been a notable lack of insight and research studies of how this will impact the ecosystem, biodiversity and agribusiness for this island.

The "big picture" should focus on the impact for the children of Bonaire. They are the future of this island. If donkey extermination continues, these children are being robbed of their cultural heritage.

Children trust their elders to protect and provide. Bonaire children have a right to inherit the richness of Bonaire, it's culture and resources. Bonaire children should enjoy the reputation of their home island as a world leader in conservation as they learn and grow into their responsibility to protect the biodiversity, cultural heritage and, yes, the Bonaire donkey.

There is a wonderful a publication by author Jesse Armacost, The Bonaire Donkey's First Adventure, to illustrate the concept of family connections as described in her book. This story reinforces the concept of Bonaire as a sheltering home for the donkey. Ms. Armacost described the teaching relationships within the donkey family, how "Marco" learned from parents, his aunts and even from the birds of Bonaire. A pleasant legacy.

Vicki W. Miller

WHAT REALLY MATTERS

Dear Editor:

For months the Citizens for a Better, Safer and Animal Friendly Bonaire sent multiple requests to the government for a temporary stop to the donkey contract to allow some time to look at and identify new ideas and information brought forth in an effort to find a more balanced, safe, cultural and animal friendly plan.

Many of the Bonairean people have identified the donkeys as a part of their island, their culture and a link to their past. There is no disputing this intangible cultural heritage; because Bonaireans feel this way than the donkeys and what they represent ARE their culture. The comments I read and hear from outsiders and non-Bonairean residents discrediting Bonairean culture really disturbs and saddens me. Have we forgotten we are guests here in your home, and as guests isn't it only right that we respect your Bonairean culture and beliefs?

The description of our donkeys in a local book by Dr. Bart A De Boer was the reason the DNA was eventually tested. Nubian Ass or not, it does not matter. What matters is that the donkeys are special to many local people and as such they need to be protected and treated with the utmost dignity and respect they deserve after almost 500 years of cohabitating along side the people of Bonaire.

Thank you, Island Council, for acknowledging our request for a temporary stop to the contract for further research, acknowledging the information we presented and for taking a step closer to preserving the cultural heritage of your people. The possibilities and positive impact this can have in the future is endless.

Rona Aguilar
Research Coordinator
Citizens for a Better, Safer and
Animal Friendly Bonaire



\$1000 A Day Fundraiser



MIVABO is Bonaire's premiere advocacy group of citizens who have as their mission to raise public awareness of the severe limitations that people with disabilities suffer when living or visiting Bonaire. "It is our duty to keep the public informed and also to advise government how to best serve this large segment of the population," said Oswald Melcherts, secretary of the foundation at MIVABO's first press conference on March 27 at Eddy's Restaurant.

The purpose of the conference was to announce a herculean fund raising campaign whose goal is \$250,000 in 250 days. These funds will be used exclusively for the purchase and installation of mobile ramps for access and egress from aircraft at Flamingo Airport. The British company AVI-RAMP made a presentation at Plaza Resort this past January. It was an impressive program and members of the tourism sector were especially supportive of BIA being able to purchase two models, one for the smaller aircraft and one used by the international carriers. "We also look at the AVI-RAMP as a wise investment to encourage the travelers with disabilities to visit our destination. It is a niche market that could be huge in the next few years," stated Ethsel Pieternella, Director of TCB. ■ *Press release*

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Crystal Gold The Solar Salt Works of Bonaire.



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

PART 3-THE ENVIRONMENT AND BEYOND

While Cargill's salt operations can be viewed as a rare center of industry on Bonaire, beyond the pink water lays island nature at its best. Along the southern boundary of the salt works is Pekelmeer, which means 'salty lake' in Dutch. The saline water, along with its abundant pink crustaceans and brine flies, makes it an ideal place for Caribbean flamingoes to

thrive and nest. This is a breeding hotspot for the birds, one of the four largest in the entire Caribbean basin. The sanctuary is also a designated Ramsar site, a wetland of significant international importance. Cargill has a lease on this land from the island government and with that comes custodial responsibilities.

"Part of our contract with the island is that we maintain the Flamingo Sanctuary for the birds," says Gary Rimmey, Cargill's plant manager. "We do monthly bird counts and share that data with STINAPA (the island's

national park) and DROB (the regional planning and management department). At any given time there are between 700-1200 flamingoes on the property. We also maintain the water level so that the birds have the mud for the nesting and also so they have a food source."

Additionally, Cargill reports any disturbances in the Pikelmeer to the authorities. "As the lease owner, it's our job to protect the Flamingo Sanctuary. Believe it or not, we've had kite surfers in Pikelmeer waters. And pet owners sometimes let their dogs wander unleashed. The public may not realize it but one kite surfer or one unleashed dog can ruin an entire breeding season for the flamingoes. Our workers take great pride in these birds. They are part of Bonaire's national identity."

But beyond lease agreements, Cargill appears to be proactive in other areas of conservation. They plot and monitor all the sabal palms on the property. Sabal palms are a rare sub species endemic to Bonaire. Occasionally they assist Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire with managing the turtle nesting beaches located on Cargill's leased land. They are also currently working with STINAPA and DROB to develop a tern island where these skittish water birds can nest undisturbed. "The problem is that we have terns nesting on our harvest roads," explains Rimmey. "There was some concern that we were interrupting the nesting cycle at times with our operations. So we are currently working with the conservation groups to build a tern island. We're going to



The birth of tern island

put tern decoys out there, some vegetation and a rock landscape that will attract the terns. It will be completed by April in time for the nesting season. Once the birds are on the island they will be safe from feral cats as well as Cargill traffic. Our hope is that if STINAPA's study shows that this first island is successful, we will build one a year. Our goal is to co-exist with the terns."

In addition to conservation, Cargill opens their leased land, which runs the entire coast from Trans World Radio to the Willemstoren lighthouse, to recreation. They have a formal agreement with kite surfer groups to use the beach at Atlantis for kite surfing. Cargill allows shore diving along these shores that sport some of the best reefs on Bonaire. That includes the Salt Pier when ships are not present. Plus, the public is allowed access to Pink Beach, a lovely stretch of coastline that Cargill owns outright.

(Continued on page 11)

Crystal Gold (Continued from page 10)

For Gary Rimmey, Cargill's position on this land use is pragmatic and straightforward. "Part of our lease with the government dictates that we manage the Flamingo Sanctuary. But with concerns to our other conservation work we view the wildlife on the southern end of the island—the fauna and flora—as a treasure. We want to help preserve it. It's as simple as that."

The *Michael A*, a 288-foot cargo vessel, is



docked and slowly moving up and down with the surge of the sea. I look below to the ship while standing next to a chute where 3,500 metric tons of Bonaire salt are about to fall into the vessel's holds (compartments). It is shipment day. "This ship will be taking our salt to the Dominican Republic," say cargo dock master, Rudy Sint Jago. "The *Michael A* has five holds. I just spoke with the ship's captain and we worked out this plan."

SintJago shows me a diagram that indicates how many tons will be delivered to each of the holds. Numbers 5 & 4 toward the front of the ship will be filled first. Then the ship will move forward to fill numbers 3 and 2. The vessel will move



Rudy Sint Jago with loading plan



loading crew L-R. Bradley Wanga, Ferdinand Saragoza, Win de Windt, and Clifford Coffie



Filling the cargo hold

forward one final time to fill the last hold. The crew maintains the balance of the ship

during loading by releasing water held inside as ballast. "It should take about six hours to fill all five holds," say Rudy. "This is a small ship for us. Some of the larger freighters take up to five days to fill."

When I spoke with Sint Jago in his office I asked him about a crown that sat on his desk. "Yeah, last November we loaded 150,000 metric tons of salt in 40 days. It was a new record for Bonaire." Rudy laughs. "They gave me this crown and called me the 'vessel king.' A big part of that salt went in the bulk carrier, *GENCO Languedoc*. She sailed away with over 52,000 metric tons."

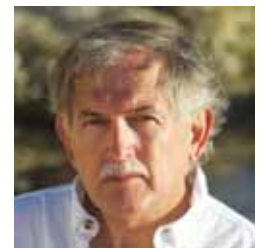
Ships are loaded throughout the year and Bonaire salt is transported to many Caribbean islands and countries that border the Caribbean Sea. Other ports are located in the US, Europe and Africa. Less than 1% of the island's salt is used to de-ice roads. Most is purchased for industrial use in the production of textiles, petroleum or for wa-

ter softening. A portion is used as table salt after additional processing.

As the *Michael A* casts off and steams north to the Dominican Republic, I ask Rudy Sint Jago how he feels watching a filled freighter leave port. "I have mixed emotions," says the veteran dock master. "On one hand, it is good. Every time a ship leaves we make money that pays for our operation. That is what we are here for. On the other hand, it is like watching a good friend leave. We work hard to make that salt. I have a kind of sentimental attachment to it. It is part of our island." ■

Story & photos by Patrick Holian

Patrick Holian is a freelance writer living on the island since 2008. He proudly uses Bonaire salt when cooking at home.



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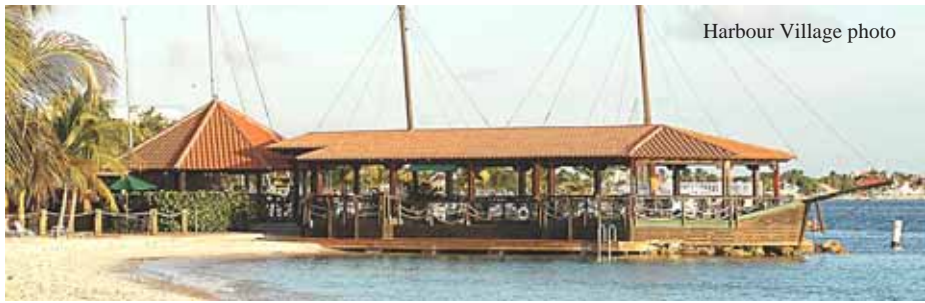
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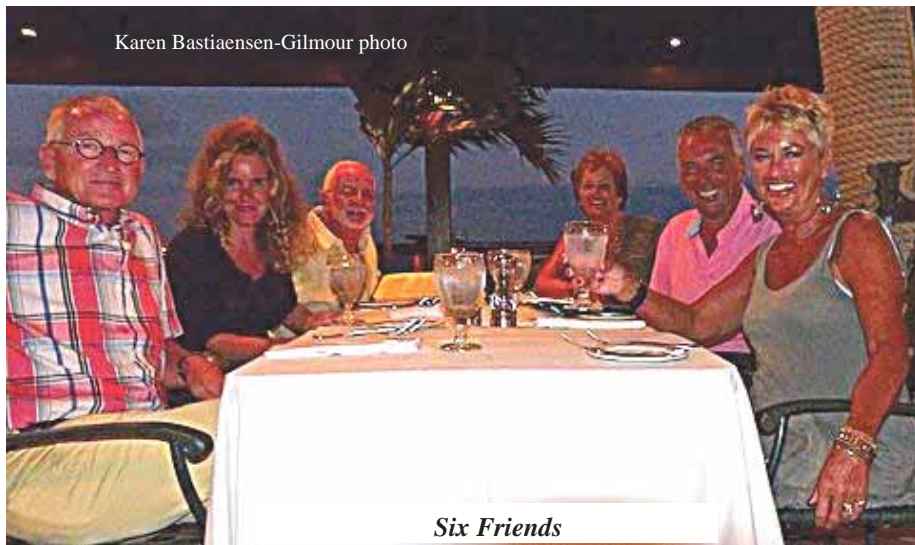
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A Tale of Six Friends On the Good Ship La Balandra for Dinner



Harbour Village photo

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. Our dinner party at Harbour Village's club-like restaurant served up experiences of both kinds. With our Port Bonaire friends, Elisabeth, Dick, Addie and Frans, we embarked on an epicurean voyage. The vessel in question is La Balandra, a restaurant specializing in Caribbean fare. Located at the always-splendid Harbour Village Beach Club, La Balandra's boat-inspired prow thrusts smartly into the sea at the marina entrance. The galley is under the command of chef Johnny Statie.



Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour photo

Six Friends

While strolling to La Balandra on a dimly lit path toward the lush gardens of Harbour Village, the six of us were challenged by a security guard. I was surprised to find that the tentacles of 9/11 had even reached our far-flung little island. When I conveyed the importance of my mission and the fact of our confirmed reservation to him, he checked, relented, opened the locked gate for us and sent us on our way.

Once on board, we were instantly embraced by a nautical setting and dedicated, uniformed service. The fact that our companions must soon board a ship of another kind for the still-cold Netherlands was a damper on the festivities.

Our server, Joraina, a sparkling Latin beauty, seated us in the middle of the "ship." There we were treated to a 360-degree view of the harbor, the Kralendijk skyline, Harbour Village's white-sand

beach, dark green hills beyond and Klein Bonaire in the sinking-sun backdrop. It was breathtaking.

Joraina recommended the "Piedra Negra" Malbec as our wine. We enjoyed it so much that we consumed at least four bottles. For the sake of my mission, I insisted that the wine should all go my way. "It needs a thorough test," I argued. Unfortunately, not one agreed.

We all dove into our appetizers. Addie, Elisabeth, and I ordered the duo of salmon, which was advertised as fresh salmon tartare wrapped in smoked salmon, and served with dill crème fraîche, chopped onion, capers and toast points. The boys rolled the dice on the Asian tuna tartare, which came surrounded by red onion, peppers, capers, and avocado. A spicy mango dressing with fresh cilantro was served on the side, as well as an order of crispy yucca fries.

The duo of salmon was a bit bland. But the tuna – yes, I poked my fork several times into Dick's and Frans' plates -- was very fresh, creamy, and an interesting blend of textures and tastes. I thought the fries chap-eroned the velvety tuna quite well indeed.

Onwards to our entrees: Frans, Addie, Dick and Elisabeth elected the roasted lamb shank atop stewed veggies and cannellini beans. My hubster went for the "gambas" (shrimp) on a brochette, rubbed in garlic and olive oil, served with tagliatelle in pesto, while I opted for tempura shrimp amid wasabi-soy sauce and pickled ginger.

All portions were generous, scarcely leaving room for dessert. I couldn't remember the next morning what entree I had consumed. Perhaps it was the wine. I never had a chance at my husband's gambas since he knowingly inhaled his colorful looking feast while I was raiding elsewhere. (He obviously wouldn't mind the prospect of sleeping on the couch later that night.)

Luckily our friends had invited me to nibble at their lamb shanks, and boy did they ooze succulence. They thought the lamb to be standard American style (their words), which, I guess, stands for less than superb. I disagreed. The meat was tender and moist, swimming in a sea of steamy greens.

After squeezing out the last few drops of the delicious wine, Elisabeth, Dick, Addie, Frans and I voted for two orders of flan caramel with a fruit entourage as a fitting finale. My hub declined. He didn't stay on course though. All six of us dug in with such fervor that we named it one of our all-time most tantalizing desserts.

I especially relished the tuna and lamb. The flan and wine were delectable. But above all, I truly enjoyed "het gezelschap" (the companionship) of my amigos and amore while taking pleasure in the alluring ambience. It's just a shame our friends must depart the island. Best times; worst times; better times ahead.

La Balandra restaurant at Harbor Village (enter at the gateway immediately north of the Harbour Village Marina entrances) is open for breakfast (7:30 – 10:30 am), lunch (12 n. – 3 pm) and dinner (7 – 10:30 pm; main courses \$20 - \$29). Reservations are strongly recommended, especially for off-resort guests; tel. 599/ 717-7500.

■ Review by Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour



(Flotsam and Jetsam Continued from page 2)
ATL 7:22pm

Through a subsidy agreement with United, the Houston weekend flights will continue through September, providing uninterrupted service year-round. The new flights have been added into the respective airlines' reservation systems.



► On Wednesday April 2nd, the Crown Building Service (Rijksgebouwendienst) awarded Bouwmaatschappij Bonaire BV the job of building a new fire station on Bonaire. The project supervisor will be Bonaire's Jacobs Architecten. The fire station will be built on the curve of the Kaya Internashonal, next to the intended new terminal of the airport. This location is specified in the master plan of Bonaire International Airport. Completion is set for mid-2015. A rendering is above.

► The Classical Music Board Bonaire will present a passion concert on Saturday, April 12, in the chapel of the San Francisco hospital's Kas di Sosiego.

The internationally acclaimed cellist German Marcano will perform two suites for solo cello by J. S. Bach. These famous pieces belong to the most beautiful and technically challenging repertoire that has ever been written for the cello. This will be the first time these pieces will have been performed on Bonaire.

Furthermore, a sonata for cello and piano by Antonio Vivaldi will be performed. The accompaniment will be provided by Bonaire resident Hans Faassen and who has accompanied many famous artists here.

The sensitive piece, "Kol Nidrei" also written for solo cello and piano by Max Bruch, will hopefully touch and inspire.

The restored chapel is a beautiful setting for this concert. The venue is small so please get your tickets early by visiting www.classicalmusicbonaire.com or Addo's Books and Toys. Tickets are \$25 or \$30 on the door. The concert will start at 8pm. See poster on page 18 for further details.

► Coming soon to Bonaire: pedicures by fish at La Placita on Kaya Grandi. Doctor fish is the name given to the species of

(Continued on page 17)

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

Celebrating 20+ years of publishing

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**Young Chang upright piano with
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very good condition, 1000 USD or best
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**8 ft pool table with 3-piece slate, blue
color felt, leather pockets, very good con-
dition, comes with ping-pong top and
accessories. \$800 or best offer. Buyer
must disassemble and move. 796-7141**

**For Sale: Jeep Grand Cherokee, 3.7
liter, six cylinder, 2007, 60k miles,
\$11,000, digitalis1956@hotmail.com,
+599 796 3637.**

**Looking to purchase reliable dive
truck in July. If ready to sell, please
contact: Louis Petrich, lpetrich@hotmail.com**

**For Sale: 1998 Chevrolet S10 Super-
Cab. \$4300 - Call: 788-3176**

**Small business offers to share office
space located in the Kaya Grandi \$200.00/
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Bonaire Reporter- April 7-21, 2014

Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
	First Quarter	01:04	06:52	14:54	20:26		
Mon 07		0.11 ft	0.71 ft	-0.20 ft	0.33 ft	6:28	18:47
Tue 08		01:49	07:31	15:26	21:00	6:27	18:47
		0.11 ft	0.66 ft	-0.16 ft	0.35 ft		
Wed 09		02:35	08:09	15:56	21:34	6:27	18:47
		0.12 ft	0.60 ft	-0.11 ft	0.37 ft		
Thu 10		03:26	08:49	16:24	22:08	6:26	18:47
		0.12 ft	0.52 ft	-0.06 ft	0.40 ft		
Fri 11		04:25	09:32	16:50	22:43	6:26	18:47
		0.12 ft	0.44 ft	-0.01 ft	0.45 ft		
Sat 12		05:34	10:23	17:12	23:19	6:25	18:47
		0.11 ft	0.35 ft	0.03 ft	0.50 ft		
Sun 13		06:53	11:28	17:33	23:58	6:24	18:47
		0.08 ft	0.27 ft	0.07 ft	0.56 ft		
Mon 14		08:13	12:54	17:53		6:24	18:47
		0.02 ft	0.20 ft	0.10 ft			
Tue 15	00:40	09:23	14:33	18:16	Full Moon	6:23	18:47
	0.63 ft	-0.05 ft	0.16 ft	0.12 ft			
Wed 16	01:25	10:19	16:00	18:54		6:23	18:47
	0.70 ft	-0.13 ft	0.15 ft	0.13 ft			
Thu 17	02:12	11:06	16:56	19:55		6:22	18:47
	0.77 ft	-0.21 ft	0.16 ft	0.14 ft			
Fri 18	03:01	11:47	17:32	21:07		6:22	18:48
	0.83 ft	-0.26 ft	0.18 ft	0.13 ft			
Sat 19	03:50	12:26	18:05	22:18		6:21	18:48
	0.87 ft	-0.31 ft	0.22 ft	0.12 ft			
Sun 20	04:39	13:04	18:39	23:26		6:21	18:48
	0.89 ft	-0.33 ft	0.28 ft	0.10 ft			
Mon 21	05:30	13:40	19:16			6:20	18:48
	0.88 ft	-0.34 ft	0.35 ft				

I am looking for someone to **help me navi-
gate an apple laptop.** An hour a week
would be very helpful.

Please call 788 7919

**Mi ta buskando un trabou komo finan-
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LOST Diver's watch (with silver bracelet)
on entry to Karpata. Slipped off my wrist in
first 3 or 4 feet of access point in rough wa-
ter. I have had the watch since my first dive
in 1979.

If found please contact Alfred (Al) Ben-
nallack Victoria, BC Canada
abennallack@gmail.com or
beverlyboyce@shaw.ca

REAL ESTATE AND RENTALS

House for rent in Sabadeco: 4 Bed-
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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.

The Salt Shop at La Placita on Kaya Grandi has many salt related products for sale which make authentic souvenirs and mementos of Bonaire. Other things there will interest everyone.

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 Culti-mara location. Featuring a complete selection including liquors, fresh meat, fruit and vegetables.



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



MADE ON BONAIRE

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

VARIETY STORE

The Tung Fong Store is a great asset to everyone on Bonaire because it stocks so many 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)

Kontest di Fli (Kites)



As hoped for, the winds blew like mad to help make the 36th annual Kontest di Fli a big success on Sunday, April 6.

Creativity, craftsmanship, camaraderie and courage were the hallmarks of the day. A total of 140 people entered the contest -90 of them youngsters, six to 16. There were eight teams made up of families, clubs, companies.

People are serious about the contest and competition was fierce and tough as the powerful winds nearly pulled the strings out of the hands of the flyers. And in some cases the handlers were pulled across the field by the blustery winds and the wayward kites. It takes an organized team to get one of these kites up into the air.

Spectators set up chairs and tables and enjoyed the kites, the music, the food and drinks and the total ambiance at the well prepared soccer field behind Kooyman. Awards were given for biggest, smallest, most creative, most strange, most beautiful. There was a grand prize for the best child's kite and one for the best adult's. Unfortunately, *The Reporter* had to go to press before the winners were announced.

Thank you Iris Semeleer, the judges (photo at upper left), the Don Andres for bringing over the kites for free from Curacao (photo of the Top Fly team from Curacao bottom left), HiteSS and all the participants in this year's contest. You gave us a magical day.

This year's contest was dedicated to The Ribs Factory. ■ Story & photos by Laura DeSalvo



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REEF April 1st - exclusively offering more shoes, clothes & accessories than before.



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Open from Monday till Saturday. Sundays closed.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

April is the month of holidays
Official Holidays in April are:

Good Friday 18

Easter Sunday 20

Easter Monday 21

Kings Day 26 Celebration

Saturday

King's Day 27 Sunday

Rincon Day Wednesday 30

Labor Day Thursday, May 1

Saturday, April 12

— **Clothing Drive.** SELIBON and Tene Boneiru Limpi will organize a "Clothing Drive" for the less fortunate. They will be partnering with *Directie Samenleving & Zorg* and the ADRA foundation that are already committed to poverty relief.

You can donate all kinds of clothing: women's, men's, children's, sportswear, shoes. Handbags, belts and other accessories are also welcome. The volunteers will accept your donations from 10am to 5 pm at the parking lot of Leen Bakker and Best Brands (across the street from Warehouse Bonaire) All clothing and shoes should be in good condition though. See poster on page 13.

— **Classical Music Board Bonaire** presents a **Passion Concert of Bach** by cellist German Marcano and pianist Hans Faassen, at the Chapel Fundashon Mariadal, Kaya Gerharts, 8 pm. See pages 18 & 12

Monday, April 14—KASITA—a short film story, filmed in Bonaire about Bonaire. More on page 18

Tuesday, April 15—Total Lunar Eclipse. See page 19

Saturday, April 26—Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei. Every last Saturday of the month, 8am-2pm. See the real Bonaire— traditional music, crafts, local produce, creole kitchen educational presentations. Mangazina di Rei is on the Rincon Road, just south of Rincon. Tel. 786-2101

Info@mangazinadirei.org
WWW.mangazinadirei.org
WWW.facebook.com/mangazina
More in the next edition of *The Reporter*

Tuesday, April 22- End of Winter Cruise ship season

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 (formerly Dare to Care Park) 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.

• **Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei—every last Saturday of the month,** 8 am-2pm. See the real Bonaire: traditional music, crafts, local produce, creole kitchen, educational presentations. Mangazina di Rei is on the Rincon Road, just south of Rincon.

• **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

• **Happy Hour at Captain Don's Habitat Bar.** The books of Bonaire's dive pioneer, Captain Don, will be available: *Island Adrift, Shangri-la, Sea Trauma* and his newest book *Reef Windows*. 5:30-7pm. Tel. 717-8290

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 Reg-

gae, Soul, Latin and more 6- 9pm.

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Monday - Touch the Sea -- Dee Scarr, honored as a member of the Women Divers Hall of Fame, conducts Bonaire's Touch the Sea programs of personalized dive guiding. She presents a unique perspective on critters and corals, plus an updated Bonaire lionfish report, **every Monday when she's on-island** at 8:30 pm in the Aquarius Conference Center at Captain Don's Habitat, Call 717-8290.

Wednesday - Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every **2nd and 4th Wednesday** in the conference room at Captain Don's Habitat (717-8290)

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060/ 790-2018

Museo Sentro Chichi'Tan, historical home, behind Rose Inn, Rincon, open 10am-4pm daily. Tel. 786-6420

Washington-Slagbaai National Park Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on December 25th and January 1st. Call **788-9015 or 796-5681**

CLUBS and MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire:

(VPGB),

Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday service-10 am in Dutch.

Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday service-8:30 am in Papiamentu/Dutch.

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

Cruise Ship Tentative Schedule

DAY	DATE	NAME	ARR/DEP	PAX	Cruise Line
Tuesday	08---Apr.	<i>Vision of the Seas</i>	0800---1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Saturday	12---Apr.	<i>Emerald Princess</i>	0700---1400	3200	Princess Cruises
Tuesday	15---Apr.	<i>Vision of the Seas</i>	0800---1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Tuesday	22---Apr.	<i>Vision of the Seas</i>	0800---1800	2446	Celebrity/RCCL
Wednesday	30---July	<i>Dawn Princess</i>	0700---1600	1950	Princess Cruises

Krusada Rehabilitation Center Open House



Last Friday the Krusada Rehabilitation Center had an open house to showcase their facility on the Kaminda Lagoen. Following speeches by Dhr. Herbert Domacassé, President of the Krusada Foundation, interviews with clients of Krusada by Kees-Jan de Kruijff and Director Eric de Jong, a cake was cut and served along with drinks to commemorate the event.

The open day continued with tours of the facilities in Papiamentu, Dutch and English, including the shade houses where a variety of vegetables are grown. It was announced that the Correctional Institution Dutch Caribbean-JICN (Prison) and Krusada (Rehabilitation Center) will cooperate in a five-year project involving the construction and development of a building to serve as a work-release center. It will be built on Krusada property on Kaminda Lagun.

It's unique in that the building and its furnishings will be built by the final users themselves, the prisoners and clients of Krusada. The building will consist of a workshop, warehouse, activities room, kitchen and store.

It is expected that the participants will learn basic work skills and be better prepared for a successful return to society. ■ G.D.



Kees-Jan de Kruijff, Joske Vos, Eric de Jong help run the center



Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 12) fish Garra rufa. Other nicknames include nibble fish, and kangal fish. They live and breed in the pools of some Turkish river systems and hot springs. But are used worldwide to remove dead skin as part of a pedicure. Look for more details in *The Reporter* coming soon.

► **Beauty Inside Outs**, a special place for beauty treatments and skin care, is offering a special discount coupon this month. You may have a 30-minute massage for only \$25 or invite your sweetie to a Couple's Massage for only \$95. The coupon is on page 18. Angelique is a true professional who will help beautify your face and body. Her facials and massages are a dream.

► **Want a unique tourist experience? Treat yourself and two friends to a flight over the island.** It offers a unique perspective and is quite enjoyable. Cost is just \$199. Makes a great gift for the person who has everything too. Cost \$ 199. Call 786-7720. www.bonaireaviation.com

► **The Bonaire Animal Shelter needs new volunteers for Sunday morning, Tuesday and Thursday morning.** Unfortunately some of the volunteers went back to Holland so now they need more animal lovers to help them clean the cages, scoop the poop and cuddle with the pets. They start at 8am until about 10 or 11 o'clock.

► **This year April 30, will be a holiday in Curaçao too.** Good news for all who want to come to Bonaire for Rincon Day.

► Bonaire's only significant export is salt as you can read in these pages. **But some**



► **The newest Above and Below painting created by Artist Janice Huckaby** was unveiled during a recent informal gathering at the JanArt studio. Cher and John Floyd, long time visitors and new residents of Bonaire were present for the event. The painting shows the landscape of the Sabadeco hillside and some of the coral structures underwater that you can find when swimming from the beach.

The painting is available for viewing at the JanArt Gallery, Kaya Grandi 14. Please stop by to check it out and practice your coral reef and fish ID knowledge while looking at all the details.

salt is kept on the island and for sale in many forms at La Placita at Kaya Grandi 9. Salt and other items from Mr. Saltman make great souvenirs and mementos of Bonaire. See page 10. ■ G./L.D.

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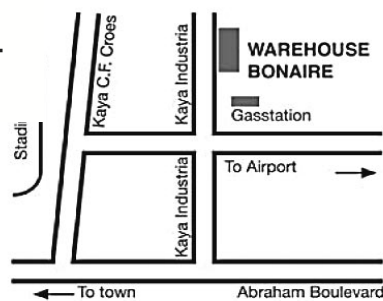


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Free Movie Shelter News



The Bonaire premiere and only showing on Bonaire of the non-commercial short film, "KASITA," will be on Monday, April 14 in the auditorium of the SGB high school. Doors open at 7 pm, and the free showing will start at 7:30. Afterwards there is a Q&A with Producer Gabri Christa followed by a vibrant live show by the folkloric Grupo Tutti Frutti, also featured in the film. Meet the cast and crew. The film is in Papiamentu with English subtitles. Rent-O-Fun will provide transportation to and from Rincon. Buses leave the entrance to Rincon by the church at 6:30pm and will take everyone back after the show around 9. **Some comments:**

"When I saw 'KASITA' I was immediately transported to the rich culture of Bonaire. Gabri's exploration of narration and dance for camera took me on an adventure that brought me right back to the excitement of storytelling, dancing and what mattered most to me as a child." *Marissa Alma Nick, Director Screen-dance Miami*

"'KASITA' is an amazing piece of work, and demonstrates Gabri Christa's sharpening chops as a filmmaker concerned with the very human mysteries of community and personal transformation. I loved the interplay of the girls and the elders. This is a must-see film..." - Brian Tate, producer, curator, and culture creator The Tate Group ■ L.D.



Urgent: Save SuperSisters Katja And Kerry

Urgent: Save Super Sisters Katja And Kerry. Katja and Kerry are two beautiful sisters. When they were only six weeks old, they were dumped at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. The owner did not want them anymore. He told us that he had too many dogs already.

Katja and Kerry have been at the Shelter since November 2012 and they are 1 1/2 years old. They are healthy, super happy, sweet and playful girls. They both have great personalities. Katja is a little bit more outgoing and Kerry is a very wise, gentle soul. They make the best companions ever!

We urgently have to find Katja and Kerry a new home. At the Shelter we have space for 40 dogs, but most of the time we have lots more.

Sadly, when there are too many dogs at the Shelter, we have to put them down. It's very sad and very depressing. And sometimes it seems that for every dog we save, two more take their place.

But if we can find a new home for the super sisters, Katja and Kerry, it would help the Shelter and the dogs a lot. Please help us save Katja and Kerry!

In the photos: Left: volunteer Joyce with Kerry, Right: Randolph and Katja. ■

Story & Photos by Marlies Tiepel

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THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
April 2014

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) It's a good time for long awaited relationships to begin. Your home may be in an uproar and you are best to stay out of the line of fire if at all possible. Socializing will be more than just entertaining. Be careful not to show your temper when dealing with the boss. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Don't let your anger consume you and don't allow important matters go unattended to. Your diplomacy will be of utmost importance this month. Get involved in creative groups. Partners may try to argue with you; however, you must stand your ground. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You can solidify your relationship if you plan a special evening with your mate. A romantic infatuation from your past may surface if you frequent places that you both used to go. Secret affairs can only lead to devastating circumstances. Don't be shy; if you want to spend more time with a special person, make a commitment. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You will have difficulties spreading yourself between your work and your home. Don't let someone take the credit for a job you did. Someone you work with may be withholding valuable information. You have more energy than the rest of the people you live with anyway. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Past partners are likely to reappear. Someone around you may not be trustworthy. Enjoy taking courses or lecturing others. Don't point your finger unjustly at others. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Be careful what you consume this month. You need to make your environment a better place, with more comforts and a better entertainment center. You're in the mood for love. Take time to reevaluate your motives regarding friendships. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Question your mate if you must. You may have problems with children. You're undergoing changes. Job changes are in order. Go for interviews or send out resumes. You really can't do anything to change matters this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Don't lend or borrow money or belongings. Make plans to meet again in the near future. Spend some time with the one you love. Pleasure trips will be satisfying. Romance is likely if you participate in unusual forms of entertainment. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't let your anger consume you and don't allow important matters go unattended to. You may be offered opportunities that will result in a higher earning potential. You will meet a person who may turn out to be more than just a friend. Be careful; your ideas are good but make sure that you're realistic and start off on solid ground. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Sign up for seminars that will expand your business awareness. Take a look at the possibilities of starting a small part time business with friends or relatives. Make plans to attend group discussions or get together with friends who like to talk as much as you do. Work quietly behind the scenes for best results. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You can bet that situations will get out of hand if you allow others to interfere. You can make a serious attempt at quitting those bad habits that you've picked up over the years. Your emotions have been pulled out of shape and you need to do a little backtracking. You won't impress anyone by being overly generous. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

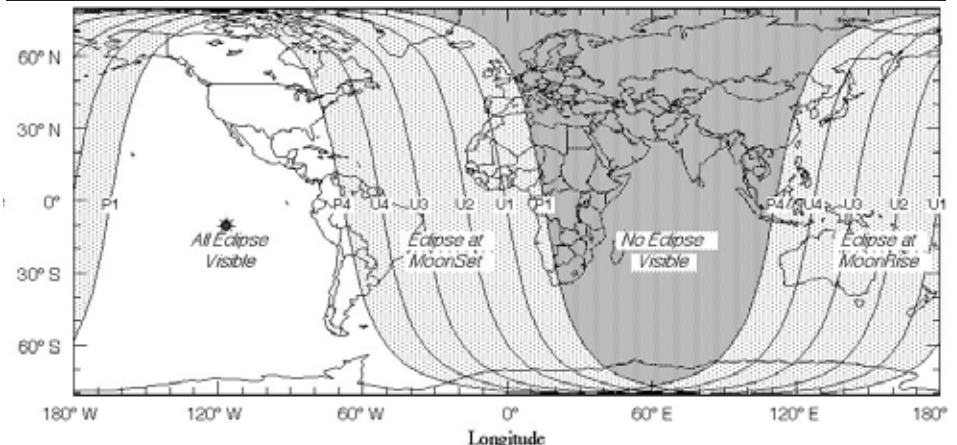
PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You're best not to get involved in joint financial ventures. Plan a day of enjoyment with them. Your positive attitude and intellectual outlook will draw others to you. You will be emotional when dealing with coworkers or employers. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday. ■



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

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ECLIPSE AND METEOR SHOWERS



On April 15, there will be a **Total Lunar Eclipse**. The eclipse will be visible in Bonaire right up to moonset/sunrise. Sky Park viewers should see a "Blood-Moon" if skies are clear. As the earth's shadow falls on the moon, the moon will take on a reddish glow.

This lunar eclipse is first of a **tetrad**, four total lunar eclipses in series. The last series was in 2003 and 2004, starting with a May 2003 lunar eclipse, while the next will be in 2032 and 2033, starting with an April 2032 lunar eclipse.

Moon Phases: Full on April 15th; new on April 29th. There is an ongoing debate among experts as to whether the lunar phases significantly influence our health and behavior. There are various theories as to why the Moon might influence us, including gravitational pull and vibration. Many scientific studies seem to indicate that there is no correlation between the Moon and health, or they offer results that conflict with other studies. In general, there seems to be no conclusive evidence.

On April 29 there will be an **Annular Solar Eclipse**. The path of annularity will begin off the coast of South Africa and move across Antarctica and into the east coast of Australia. (NASA Map and Eclipse Information | NASA Eclipse Animation) **Not visible in Bonaire, of course.**

Planets: **Jupiter** continues its slow slide to the west and is still in the sky until it sets around 2 am in mid-April. But the real star of this month is **Mars**. It

reaches **opposition (directly opposite the Sun in our sky)** on April 8th, so that it is in the sky all night long.

A Mars opposition occurs roughly every 26 months. Since Mars is farther from the Sun, it moves more slowly and takes longer to complete one orbit; one Martian year is 687 Earth days. We will pass Mars on our faster "inside track" this month, and it will take us another 26 months to catch up to it again. Opposition is the point in their orbits when Mars and the **Earth** are closest to each other. But not all Mars oppositions are created equal. Mars' orbit is very eccentric, meaning that its distance from the Sun varies quite a bit. If we encounter Mars near its **perihelion (point closest to the Sun)**, it appears quite large in our sky as it did in the historic August 2003 opposition. The 2014 opposition is nearer **aphelion (point most distant from the Sun)**, so it doesn't appear as large in a telescope. But it is quite bright, and noticeably red-orange in color.

Saturn rises a couple of hours after Mars, a little earlier each night. More about Saturn in the May/June guide.

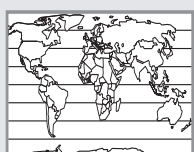
On the nights of April 21-22 look up in the Sky Park and view the **Lyrids Meteor Shower**. The Lyrids are an average shower, usually producing about 20 meteors per hour at their peak. These meteors can produce bright dust trails that last for several seconds. The shower usually peaks on April 21 and 22, although some meteors can be visible from April 16-25. Look for meteors radiating from the constellation of Lyra after midnight. ■

Bob Berman

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

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

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