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BONAIRE
The REPORTER

May 5-19, 2014 - Year 21, Issue 10

Remember
Your
Mother

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



Rincon Day 2014
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Flotsam and Jetsam

BOINAIRE The REPORTER

The Dutch Government announced the start of the process to appoint a new Island Governor for Bonaire. You might have seen advertisements in the newspapers. The position of Island Governor has been vacant since March 1, this year, when Lydia Emerencia resigned. Since then, Acting Island Governor Edison Rijna has been in charge.



If interested respond to the job opening before May 15, 2014. The salary of the Island Governor was also released by the Dutch Government: US\$80,816 per year.

The candidate will be screened by the Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations prior to the nomination. The screening will consist of an investigation by the Dutch national security agency AIVD and a fiscal audit.

In addition candidates needed for the position of the Kingdom Representative who will replace Wilbert Stolte. The vacancy was published in the *National Gazette* and local media on April 22. The application period will close on May 13.

► **On May 22, 2014, the people of the Caribbean Netherlands will vote in the elections of members of the European Parliament.** Every citizen of the Caribbean Netherlands 18 years and older who has the Dutch nationality also has the European citizenship and therefore also voting rights in the elections for the European Parliament. The voting rules that were applicable in the Island Council elections in (2011) will apply.

► **Dutch State Secretary Jetta Klijnsma does not intend to increase the old age AOV pension for Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius** as long as she does not have concrete, quantitative data at her disposal. She hopes to receive such this year from the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS).

► **In celebration of the 45th anniversary of the Washington Slagbaai National Park, STINAPA is holding a hike to the top of the Brandaris at sunset on Sunday May 25th.** There is space for 20 participants. Participants must be present at the entrance of the Park no later than 4pm. Good physical condition is important and children 10 years and up may partici-



pate if accompanied by their parents or an adult. Put on hiking shoes and bring your own water bottle and a snack and also a flashlight. On the second part of the hike, there will be some climbing to get to the top. Part of the descent will be after sunset in the dark. Everyone will be back at the entrance of the park around 8pm.

If you love adventure and want to participate, call 786-5229 or email washingtin-park@stinapa.org. The number of participants is limited.

► **ESPN will broadcast the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games:** opening and closing ceremonies, daily competition, nightly highlights and other cultural activities, and we on Bonaire will be able to see our athletes in action..

The 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games will be the first held in the US in 16 years. Los Angeles has previously hosted the Summer Olympic Games twice -- 1932 and 1984. **Bonaire first participated in the Games about 20 years ago and plans to participate next year as well.** The Games will be held from July 25 - August 2, 2015

► **THE HAGUE--A request by Bonaire's housing foundation, Fundashon Cas Bonairiano (FCB) to be exonerated from having to pay property tax (vastgoedbelasting) from 2011-2013 has been rejected by Dutch State Secretary of Finance Eric Wiebes.** FCB had asked for tax forgiveness because it can't pay the property tax and because of its inability to increase the rent of the social housing in Bonaire.

► **Look up on the night of Wednesday, May 7, because the Eta Aquarid meteor shower peaks.** A zenith hourly rate of 55 is forecast to be visible under ideal conditions. The dust that creates the meteors you observe originate from Halley's Comet. And check the Sky Park column in the next issue of *The Reporter* because a brand new meteor shower will possibly grace our night skies on May 24 peaking around 3 am.

► Although more than 40% of Bonaire's employers and entrepreneurs participating in a survey consider "Dia di Rincon" one of the most important and largest local events, they don't think it calls for an extra day off.

They prefer to sacrifice another public holiday. This is based on the survey by Bonaire Business & Employers (BBE) Association, among its members.

The survey shows that the members are in favor of maintaining Dia di Rincon as an official holiday. However, the majority is of the opinion that an extra day off shouldn't be created for it.

They support the suggestion to give up Kingdom Charter Day on December 15 instead.

► **The most interesting little shop on Kaya Grandi has got to be La Placita.** Enter its space and feel serene and explore their products and services. It's the break you need. See their advertisement on the facing page.



► **Want to improve your health, lose weight or train for a sporting event? There is a fantastic offer available this month at the Bon Bida Spa, the island's most well equipped fitness center. First: a month membership is just \$60.** It entitles you use of all the equipment, all the classes, one-hour of personal training, and a 25% discount for clothing and accessories and much more. It makes the **best Mothers' Day gift and the best gift for yourself too.**

► According to a report from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/World Bank in 2011 the average price level in Bonaire was nearly 15% higher than in Curaçao. In Aruba consumer products were about as expensive as in Bonaire. St. Maarten was almost 2% more expensive than Bonaire. This was published in the 2011 International Comparison Program (ICP) released this last April 30th. Can you imagine what the difference is in 2014?

It reported that Bermuda is by far the most expensive country in the Caribbean region,

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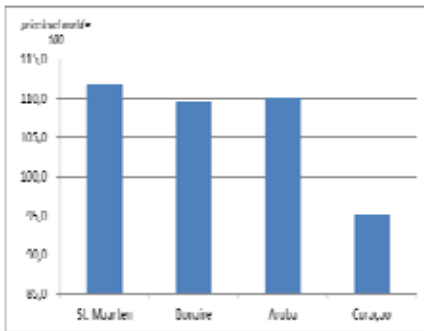


► Check out the prices of identical cans of Santo Domingo coffee. One sold in Aruba (\$3.64), one in Bonaire (\$6.95), and one in Curaçao (\$5.74) (with labeled guilder prices converted to US dollars), clearly showing the ridiculous price differences, Bonaire being 91% more expensive than Aruba. - Rene Hakkenberg

Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) followed with great distance by the Turks and Caicos. Suriname and Belize are the two cheapest countries in the region. See graph below.



► On Saturday, 26 April, well known local fisherman Luti Craane and his son, Ludson, went fishing as usual. About 9 am they felt something on their line, and, boy, was it SOMETHING! A 276 kg. (607 lbs.) marlin! After seven hours and help from another boat they finally managed to land it. Locals and local restaurants benefited from the major catch.



Ermin Mercelina Pourier Norman Erwin Evertsz Silvio Dominico Semeleer Marela Wanner Pourier

► Four Bonaire residents received royal decorations this year to help mark the occasion of the King's Official Birthday, April 27. They were honored for their valuable contributions to the island's community and other outstanding achievements.

They were all named "Members of the Order of Oranje Nassau" and received appropriate ribbons and medals.

Interim Lt. Governor Edison E. Rijna, King Willem Alexander's representative on Bonaire, made the awards. Their names and photos appear above.

They all shared a common quality that was expressed by Governor Rinja in his statement: "By their voluntary actions and accomplishments they have made Bonaire a better place."

► In the last issue of *The Reporter* (April 21 - May 5, 2014) in the "Word on the Street" column there was an item about a rumor regarding the Courtyard house and apartment complex. The owner, Robert Kat said the rumor is untrue. "The project is on schedule," he said, "and a section will be finished in mid-July as planned. Everyone has been paid and the project is not over a million dollars in debt." A drive-by of the property showed everything in order. The Courtyard project is unrelated to the other properties mentioned in the same section. ■ G./L. D.



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Actual testimony by a local victim: When I was little my mother loved her new boyfriend more than us. She ran away and left me and my brothers and sisters alone with my dad. My father couldn't understand and started to drink, lots. He didn't love us anymore as well. We were terrible children. So he had to batter and abuse us and me and my sisters became his girlfriends. As soon as I met my boyfriend we started living together. But we fought with each other almost every day.

After two months I became pregnant.



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Born on Bonaire, April 21st, 1950 ... Edelda de Jongh

“My father was in the shipping business- bulk boats with a sail – no engine. The first one with an engine was called *Foca* – which means seal. We had the *Foca* and the *Isidel 1, 2* and *3*. The name *Isidel* is a combination of my older sister’s name Ilse and mine, Edelda. My father had only two daughters as well as five sons.

The boats sailed between Bonaire, Curaçao, Aruba and Venezuela. With the *Foca* my dad also went from Curaçao to Jamaica to get gas cylinders.

My mother was a home maker. She took care of the children but she had an income as well. She rented out the rooms upstairs while we lived downstairs. And she ran a little bar called ‘Liberty Bar.’ It was well-known and very popular in those days. We also had another ‘mother’ who’d grown up with our mom. She helped our mother with everything and together they also cooked lunches for the ladies who worked at a textile workshop called ‘Cambes.’ That was another little business my mom had. You know, it used to be customary here: both spouses did everything to make money and one had to be creative.

I went to San Bernardo elementary school and to Mulo high school. Then I started working at Bonaire Trading, in the daytime at the office and in the evenings at the airport. In those days a lot of planes would land here. Big groups of people were flown in straight from the US to Hotel Bonaire and its casino. I worked for three years for Bonaire Trading, then for two years at Landsradio, the telecommunication service of the Dutch Antilles. And it’s funny because in both my jobs I would meet everyone on the whole island. Bonaire Trading was the only travel agency where people could buy a ticket, and as the island didn’t have a direct telephone connection – every conversation went through the operator of Landsradio, even the airport control! That’s how it worked on this island in the old days.

My father was not the only one who was in the shipping business. There were other families as well but only the DeJongh family is still carrying on. It’s not just about making money. There is a lot at stake and there are many problems. And we had a terrible accident with the *Isidel 1* which disappeared between Curaçao and Bonaire with seven people on board. One of them was my brother and another one my cousin. It was a tragedy... we were standing on the dock, looking out over the ocean and waiting for the boat that never came... Of course there was a search, but nothing has ever been found. It still remains a mystery.

While I worked at Landsradio, whenever it was quiet, I would fill in the bills of lading for my dad, but when my boss caught me, he would give me a scolding. In fact I’ve always worked for my dad’s company, and after Landsradio I went into



Edelda de Jonge: A friend of mine told me A face without freckles is like a sky without stars...

the family business full-time. The bulk cargo would be immediately unloaded at the pier and I would stand there to settle accounts. I did the administration and I knew everything that was going on in the business.

“If I didn’t like the movie I would leave halfway through and I’d ask for my money back and they would give it back to me. That’s how it went in the good old days.”

I got married when I was 23. We had two children, a girl, Maria Eugenia – who now lives on Aruba where she has her own company representing different shipping agencies from Aruba- and a son, André Avelino. He lives in Zurich, Switzerland and works as a steward for Private Air.”

She smiles: “I’ve got two children – one can tell you all about ships and the other one knows all about airplanes. When my daughter left to study Banking and Insurance in Groningen, Holland, my son went with her. He was only 12 at the time and when she graduated after four years, he came back with her.

When the children were in Holland my marriage ended. After the divorce I kept on working. I’ve worked all my life. And I played tennis and volleyball and I swam. My girlfriends and I loved to dance and we would go every week to the matinee of discotheque, ‘E Wowo.’ Every week in a new dress. I would sew them myself, just as I’ve been cutting hair as a hobby. I’m self-taught! I loved to go to the movies as well. We often went to Cinema Carib, where now Blokker is located.” *She laughs.* “If I didn’t like the movie I would leave halfway through and I’d ask for my money back and they would give it back to me. That’s how it went in the good old days.

In 1986 we modernized the company and bought the *Don Andres*. It arrived here in 1987. We chartered the *Doña Luisa* through another company. In the



Edelda and her partner Raphael Rodriguez

meantime we sold the *Don Andres* as well and now we’re chartering it too. The ships sail between Bonaire and Curaçao, but they can also be chartered by others through the rental agency in Tortola, of which we are the agent. So they are sailing throughout the Caribbean under the Panamanian flag.

One day when I was back on Bonaire I heard she’d divorced so I looked in the phone book and saw Edelda de Jongh-de Moer. That was a big blow because I thought she had remarried with a Mr. de Moer! I felt terribly jealous and didn’t call her again.”

“It was Telbo who had made the mistake,” *Edelda laughs.* “I’d made several complaints but they put me with ‘de Moer’ in the phone book for three years in a row. “Well,” *Raphael says,* “as I never saw a Mr. de Moer anywhere, I finally decided to call and then she was working in the garden. But... that night she was going to a party at Tera Kora Ranch and I told her I would bring her the photo if... she would have one dance with me!” “After that first dance we never left the dance floor anymore,” *Edelda says.* “He only sneaked out for a second to put on a clean shirt which he’d kept in the car. Raphael was well prepared.

We are very happy together. We are honest with each other and we have no secrets. Since I’m with Raphael and we are both retired I’m travelling 400% more. We went to Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and New York and we drove through practically all of the US from Charlotte, NC, to upstate New York and we made a beautiful boat trip with the *Queen Elizabeth 2*. This coming August we’re going to New Zealand where his/our son Justin Rodriguez is getting married. Then we will meet our first granddaughter (we already have three grandsons), Ariana Louisa, who is named after my mother.

Travelling with Raphael is just perfect; I feel safe and I leave everything to him as he knows the world.

After both our parents passed away we’ve been thinking of moving somewhere else. We went to look on Bali where the people were amazingly friendly, but we haven’t made up our mind...yet. You see,” *she smiles,* “Bonaire is still my Bonaire, whatever the challenges!” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Bonaire Reporter- May 5-19, 2014

Bonaire's Newest REEF FISH ID EXPERT

Richard Willis, a Senior Instructor working for Dive Friends Bonaire, recently passed his REEF FISH ID exam at the highest level, Level 5, for the Tropical Western Atlantic region.

This is a very significant accomplishment. The difficult exam is 100 fish, anything in the Paul Humann book is fair game. Richard had to generate the correct family and fish names (NOT multiple choice). Only a handful of enthusiasts attain this level each year.

The Reef Organization and their survey program are a fantastic way to both develop your knowledge of fish and also to contribute to long term studies of reef fish health. Since Dive Friends Bonaire is a REEF field station they have helped Richard to develop a PADI Reef Fish Specialty and encouraged him in his quest to improve his knowledge of the wonderful fish we have on Bonaire and to pass it on to their guests.

Richard has been following the Reef Fish Id path for a few years, starting with identifying a small number of fish (25 or so for the Level 2 test) and gradually got better and moved up to the Level 5 test. When asked about his accomplishment, Richard had this to say. "I am very lucky that Dive Friends Bonaire promotes environmental initiatives. The Reef Organization and their survey program are a fantastic way to both develop your knowledge of our fish and also to contribute to long term studies of reef fish health. Our reefs are, in my opinion, the jewel in Bonaire's crown and face serious problems, such as the rezoning of the Marine Park, but also positive factors such as the new sewage works that are being developed. The Reef survey system should allow us to see the effects on our reef life. Reef Fish identification is a fascinating hobby, can be done while diving or snorkeling and you only need to know a few fish to start your journey. Give it a try - it's great fun! I have had great support from Kim White, Reef, DFB, Sue and am very pleased to have passed my exam!"

If you're interested in learning more, you can drop by and visit Richard at Dive Friends Bonaire@ Dive Inn. ■ Carolyn Caporusso/Photos by Rene Huisman



Richard at ID work



Our Donkeys' Future?



Four friendly donkeys at the Bonaire Donkey Sanctuary

The Bonaire donkey conflict continues, each side defending their approach to the handling of the island's free-ranging donkeys. The positions:

The long-established **Bonaire Donkey Sanctuary (BSU)** run by Marina Melis for 22 years favors confining females and young donkeys and setting free the males after they are castrated. During the round-up donkeys considered sick or diseased by a veterinarian are humanely killed. If taken to conclusion this approach will eventually lead to the elimination of free-roaming donkeys and perhaps ultimately to all donkeys on the island except for those kept in zoos or privately owned. Environmentalists favor this approach as donkeys are blamed for disrupting the ecological balance of the island because they eat the natural vegetation. The government currently favors this approach because it minimizes the risk to motorists who collide with the animals.

The operation of the sanctuary came under scrutiny following an inspection by the "Todd Mission Ranch Wild Burro Protection League," but subsequent inspections, including one by the Donkey Sanctuary of the United Kingdom, showed the animals were well treated within the limits of veterinary availability, budget and other resources.

A different approach is favored by the "**Citizens for a Better, Safer and Animal Friendly Bonaire,**" a group established after reports that around a third (currently thought to be 97) of the donkeys captured were being euthanized. That organization believes that donkeys are an asset to the cultural heritage of Bonaire and rather than being eliminated, should be allowed to breed and roam free in specified wooded areas. They favor additional measures to protect motorists, train donkeys and provide additional veterinary care in lieu of euthanasia. During their activities a sample of donkey blood proved to have DNA markers that showed the island's donkeys to be a close match to that of the critically endangered Nubian Ass. An additional 15 blood samples are needed to determine if this is a true match. If it is it should result in actions to strongly protect the animals and provide access to additional finances.

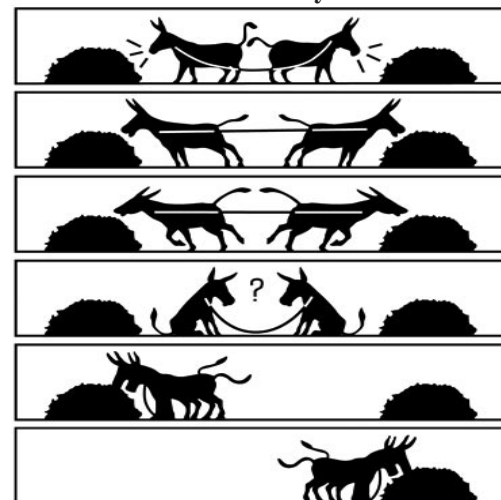
An attempt to get additional DNA blood samples at the Sanctuary was thwarted, so the final determination will be delayed.

Meanwhile recriminations and accusations are generating hard feelings and letters to the editors of local newspapers. *The Reporter* chooses to refrain from printing the letters at this time because it feels that the interests of the donkeys can best be served by the groups working together. Currently because of the conflict between the groups, donors who would contribute to the welfare of Bonaire donkeys are confused and may be reluctant to contribute further.

Perhaps the most recent comments by the controversial Marjorie Farabee of the American Wild Horse Freedom Federation indicates a softening of attitude:

"It is unfortunate that all of the people involved in the donkey issue on Bonaire cannot put their collective wisdom together for the welfare of these regal animals. It would be far better if we could work together to find solutions that address their safety, the safety of the public and respects the culture of the Bonairean people. The preservation of an animal who means so much to the flavor of Bonaire, her environment, her people and her economic prosperity should be made a priority." ■ G.D.

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BoDiGrowing...

BonDiGro, Bonaire's first cooperative discount supermarket, located in the blue building on Kaya Industria Pariba, diagonally across from the Bonaire Food Group, will soon move to another building. The new building is the neighborhood/barrio "Den Chefi," just behind the shops of Leen Bakker and Best Brands Bonaire on Kaya Industria.



BonDiGro will move to this much bigger building

BonDiGro started last year on Friday December 6th. In January an official opening was organized with food, drinks and music. By then many Bonaireans had already found out that BonDiGro was the one and only cheap supermarket where the products are sold out of their cardboard boxes.

Roland Schalker, idealist and entrepreneur, says, "With Carla, Philip, Mary, Susy, Charlotte and Oscar we make a great team. We really intend to be a low budget supermarket for the people of Bonaire. Costs of living are getting higher and higher. I made some calculations on the back of a cigar box and I decided prices could go down a lot. A building with no air conditioning, a building not at a prime location, a selection of basic products. In no time the Bonairean people knew how and where to find us. When they entered the supermarket they were astonished by the low prices - an overloaded shop trolley for only \$80! They immediately started calling their family and friends and in no time the shop was filled with customers. At this moment we only have two check out counters and customers sometimes have to wait a minute. But the waiting is worth it as they save a lot of dollars on their groceries.

In the near future we will move to another location. We found a huge building directly behind Leen Bakker's shop, very close to Warehouse Supermarket. This building is three times as big as our present location and it is not less than three stories high. The new store is wheel chair accessible and there are ramps for four trucks with containers. Yes, the BonDiGro mouse keeps on roaring!" ■ *Story & photo by Jan Brouwer*



The Surgeon As A Sculptor



St. Maarten Herald Photo

↔ Curaçao author Frank Martinus Arion touches the bust of himself when it was unveiled at Curaçao's National Library last month. The bust sculpture was created by Bonaire's Rob van der Veen (above)

Dr Rob van der Veen, who, among other things, served as Bonaire's first staff surgeon at San Francisco Hospital, is also an accomplished sculptor. In the photo Dr. van der Veen is standing beside the plaster mold of the bust of author Frank Martinus Arion that he used to prepare the sculpture for casting.

He was assisted by his student/pupil who was a great help to him: Carina Kalke, originally from New York, who now lives on Bonaire. ■

Story & photo by Cecile Röben

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Word on the Street

Local sources report that on Tuesday, 29 April, by order of the Public Prosecutor, Dutch and local detectives searched the Kadaster's office (property registry) regarding an ongoing investigation of false documents. They also paid a visit to another address that was not disclosed. The investigation into false documents is in "full swing" and certain documents were confiscated.

- ◆ Rumor on the street is that three notable eateries are on the "for sale" block or already have new management.
- ◆ A plague of flies seems to have descended on Bonaire. Areas affected include Tera Cora, Santa Barbara, several kunukus and other spots.
- ◆ Final touches are being put on the building (formerly T.I.S.) next to Warehouse. It is named "Famoso" and may be another supermarket. It's rumored the ownership is Chinese.
- ◆ InselAir's "direct" flight from Miami to Bonaire is a two-legged flight: Miami-Curaçao/Curaçao-Bonaire all on the same day. But if the MIA-CUR flight is delayed and passengers are unable to get to Bonaire until the following day there is no reimbursement from the airline for having to get a hotel room in Curaçao.
- ◆ Observers report that Dia di Rincon had a far more island culture ambiance to it this year than in previous years, when it had to "share" the date with Queen's Day. Most found it to be a better than ever celebration. More smiles, more friendly, and with non-native visitors wearing "Mi (heart) Rincon" (I love Rincon) shirts instead of orange. ■ *Bula Bonchi*



BONAIRE ON WHEELS MINI-EDITION

This is the 134th of a series of *Bonaire Reporter* articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles and persons that are "on wheels."



Three generations of the Felida family. "Tokai," the father and grandfather, with hat, in the center.

The Felida family is camping again. Last year Jan and Olga Felida were on the front page of *The Bonaire Reporter* with a picture of the couple and their homemade green painted wooden caravan. This year some 35 members of the Felida clan took over the terrain of the former plantation of Tolo, just North of Boka di Tolo/Ol' Blue.

In and around the ruins of the former plantation of Tolo the members of the Felida family had erected all kinds of tents and structures made of wood, branches and cloth. Last year the *pater familias*: Jan Felida, also known as "Tokai," was there with his homemade mobile home. This year he infected two of his sons so now there was another caravan and a Ford with a camper unit.

The homemade camper unit consists of a sophisticated structure of fine wooden beams covered with very thin and light ply wood. It took Tokai's son about \$200 and a week of hard labor to create the white painted slide-on unit. The camper unit fits very neatly in the bed of his Ford double cabin pick-up truck. Well done! Real Bonairean craftsman work! ■ *Story & photo by Jan Brouwer*

Mothers' Day Winners



Ruthy Pauletta (at right) with her mother, Hilda Pauletta, 77, (left) and Ruthy's daughter in the center

The Sonia Home Italian Restaurant is pleased to name the winners of their Mothers' Day photo contest. The winning entry earned a dinner for three on May 10 (Mothers Day Eve) at the restaurant located near the northern traffic circle. Runners-up received certificates for 50% and 30% discounts on their dinners at Sonia Home.

Winner: **Ruthy Pauletta and her mother, Hilda**
 Runner-up: **Rosa de Jong and her mother, Tienieke**
 2nd Runner-up: **Diana Nicole Towler and her mother, Vicky**
 Congratulations to the winners and all mothers on their day. ■



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Consumers Union Meets



From left: Wietse Koopmans, (Moderator of the meeting), Celia Fernandes Pedra (UNKOBON chairwoman), Norman Wilson (member of the Union Council).

On Saturday, April 26, the first public meeting of Unkobon (*Union di Konsumidó Boneiru/Bonaire Consumers' Union*) was held at its office on Kaya Sábalo in Antriol. Unkobon has nearly 350 members at this time. Almost 40 people attended the public meeting.

Unkobon is a young and dynamic non-profit organization, founded on November 2, 2012. The organization aims to inform and help Bonairean consumers and to make them aware of their forces and rights. It only takes \$10 a year to become a member.

Unkobon is organized in the same way as the Consumers' Union in the Netherlands and works closely with their sister organization. The members are represented by the Union Council, consisting of five to nine members. The Union Council has five members now but expects to expand to seven members soon. The other members of the Union Council are: Bea van der Harst, Joke Moolenburgh and Han de Bruijne. Edith Strauss-Marsera is a member of the Supervisory Board together with Celia Fernandes Pedra, and since the meeting new member Lydia Emerencia (Bonaire ex-governor) completed the Board. Hans Evers is the Union's Director. Unkobon has sought membership of the International Consumers' Union and has been unofficially approved.

The Bonaire Consumers' Union tries to work as efficiently as possible with almost no financial funds. Most importantly for the Union is the steady growth of the number of members. The more members they get, the more powerful the union will become. The yearly fee is low as the Union only works with volunteers. A member is always free to support it as a volunteer or with an extra financial donation. Unkobon wants to

make the Bonairean consumer aware of his situation and intends to inform its members in a regular and transparent way.

Since its existence, Unkobon has been paying attention to the problems concerning the supply of gas by Curoil. It also pays attention to the quality of the water and electricity distributed by WEB. Just recently Unkobon bought a so-called data logger— a little, ingenious, electronic device to check and control the delivery and quality of the electricity distributed by WEB.

Unkobon also checks telephone companies and the cost of services supplied by local banks. It monitors the efficiency of the distribution of the mail by Flamingo Express. Unkobon can be contacted with any complaint through the consumers' desk.

Unkobon conducted a series of price monitoring in 2012 and 2013 to see whether the tax exemption of January 1, 2013, on a list of "first necessities" had been passed on to the consumer.

Very crucial was the role Unkobon played in the coordination of the project to specify minimum budgets assigned by the local government and supervised by NI-BUD, which is an independent Dutch institution.

At the meeting the leaders of the four workgroups (Energy and Water; Financial Affairs; First Necessity Products and Consumer's Desk) reported their progress. More information: Telephone 717-4318, office at Kaya Sábalo 13.

www.consumentenbonaire.com, email: info@consumentenbonaire.com. To share observations and to take part in discussions about consumer matters, visit their page, Consumenten Bonaire, on Facebook. ■

Story and photo by Jan Brouwer

Picture Yourself In Steamboat Springs, Colorado, USA



Al and Joyce Sanchez, part-time Bonaire residents, take a break from powder skiing to pose with their *Bonaire Reporter*.



Domenica and Sharon are friends from the great white north - Calgary, Alberta Canada. Domenica now residing in Bonaire, was visiting Sharon and enduring dramatic weather variances. "Missing Bonaire we indulge ourselves in reading *The Reporter*."

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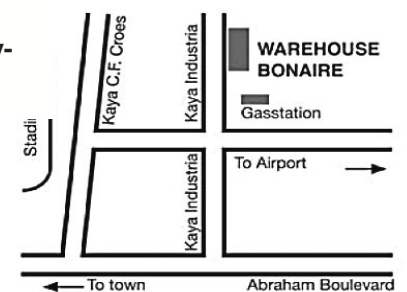
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The Bike Professionals

The Road Taken To Barbecue and Reggae

Two roads diverged in the [mond], and I—

I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference (with apologies to the late poet Robert Frost for the liberties I took with his poem "The Road Not Taken").

Struggling along the road from Kralendijk to Lac Cai, hoping to negotiate the intricacies of the *mond* with the help of well-placed, hand-painted signs, we finally stumbled upon our final destination: Landhuis "De Tuin," home of the former Butterfly Farm. It is now a BBQ place to be reckoned with.

A quick survey inside this cozy hangout revealed colorful artwork, a board describing FORSA rules for troubled youngsters, and a haphazard gathering of chairs and tables on the terrace. Reggae was beating its drum while a warm breeze drifted our way. My food mate quickly secured us two Amstel Brights. The voyage had left us parched. Bram, our waiter, who incidentally also serves as a part-time chef and FORSA employee, explained the Jamaican BBQ deal. It's only on Sundays from 12-6pm and the man in charge is Robert Bryan, a Jamaican native of many talents.

Robert runs the show at Landhuis "De Tuin" from Tuesday through Saturday with a regular snack and drinks menu. On Sundays he barbecues mostly ribs and

chicken, and sometimes, on demand, locally caught fish.

Besides holding his own as a BBQ pit master, Robert sings a mean reggae tune. At Den Laman and The Butterfly Farm he used to chant with his own reggae band, and he hopes to demonstrate his musical talents again at De Tuin.

Robert also oversees FORSA juveniles with an abundance of compassion and respect. These young, sometimes delinquent teenagers need a place they can call home, feel positive about themselves, and learn the values of hard work. The Landhuis provides this kind of support.

Talking about "his kids," Robert's eyes lit up, and his voice wavered with emotion. "I respect and love them, like they're my own." I asked him, jokingly, whether he has this kind of devotion towards our upcoming orders of jerked and barbecued ribs and chicken. After he ambled back into his kitchen to care for our carnivorous cravings, my hubby and I agreed on sharing just ONE glass of red wine. If you've read my previous reviews, you might be surprised at this, but in my defense, it was only 4:30pm. No, beer doesn't count.

The fragrance of hot, charcoal-seared meat and poultry invoked memories of never-ending summer evenings with my family and high school friends in our Dutch backyard. My dad liked to stand guard at the pit trying to juggle (and often



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fail) sausages, steaks, and chicken. We pretended not to notice the frequent trips to the kitchen where he had to brush off the dirt from the dropped goodies. It all tasted grand anyway while we cherished the unusually balmy, almost tropical aromas. Disco and reggae filled the air as we chomped and chatted.

Back to here and now, where unruly heaps of ribs and chicken with a side of rice and beans with banana pancakes materialized on our table. The ribs seemed to have been broiled for hours on end. The meat slid right off the bone right into my mouth. Crispy and piquant on the outside while moist and tender within. I am in rib heaven!

The chicken, while extremely tasty, was too dry for my palate. Impervious to my hubby's protests, I switched my chicken for his ribs, and all was right again. Resistance was futile. The rice and beans were, well, rice and beans, but, the banana pancakes made for an unexpected Caribbean treat -- sweet, gooey, fruity, a yummy

mix. We begged for more, and more came. Sated and satisfied, we paid a very reasonable bill.

We'll be devouring more of Robert's Jamaican style BBQ ribs at The Landhuis in the near future, and that road? I'm sure it'll be more traveled by soon. ■

Karen Bastiaensen-Gilmour

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Robert and author Karen

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The main streets of the Rincon village were closed to motor traffic. Thousands of people thronged the streets from morning to well into evening. Police reported no significant problems.



It was great to be together with old friends.



The awesome new Brodje Janga memorial drew lots of people: Joan & Alex, Melva & Johannes



The stage backdrop, depicting an old time kunuku scene from Rincon, the soul of Bonaire.



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*Top- Clinton "Buchi" Sint Jago
Far left—Elizé and daughter, Quary
Left— Quary and Rocky
Right— Desiree and family*



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First Platinum Ambassadors



Heather Sellick and Bud Uren, First Platinum Ambassadors, April 11, 2014 with TCB's Rolando Marin. They remember Basilio Marin as their first Dive Master

During the month of April the TCB honored seven visitors with Bonaire Ambassador status, and for the first time added a platinum level to the existing gold, silver and bronze awards. The platinum award will be continued.

Honored were: **Mike and Ann Davis** from the USA, Bonaire visitors for 22 consecutive years. Gold Medal

Gary Gordon—a Gold Ambassador Medal for 22 consecutive visits

Michael and Janet Kownacki also from the USA, Bonaire visitors for 15 consecutive years, a Silver Medal. ■

Helen Thodé

Dive Friends Clean-ups Continue



Bonaire/Kralendijk –

Dive Friends continues their relentless goal of cleaning up underwater Bonaire. On Saturday April 19th Dive Friends Bonaire organized their second clean up dive this year. Some 75 volunteers got together at the Dive Inn location of Dive Friends. Briefing was at 10 am. Asko Zuidam informed all volunteers about the underwater rules. Sometimes it is difficult to decide what trash is new and what trash is already captured by the always busy creatures of the sea. It takes experienced divers to cope with buoyancy and to carry a heavy mesh bag with trash. The location this time was the South Pier.

As we all get older I discovered more and more youngsters join the clean up dive. The youngest volunteer was Constantijn Botterop (15). The next youngest was Marvella Velandia (16), both from the island of Bonaire.

Weather conditions were fine. Just a little current. The temperature of the sea water is climbing again after the winter period. After the one-hour no-decompression dive the bags with trash were collected by the on shore volunteers. Almost 1,500 items were counted. Among them: 325 glass bottles, 136 pieces of fishing line, three hammers, two pairs of sunglasses, one mobile phone, one tampon applicator and one cruise ship pass! What happened to the owner of the pass is still unknown at the present.

After the dive there was some time to have a personal clean up and a little mid-day nap. Around 6pm the pot luck barbecue started at the Hamlet Oasis location of Dive Friends, one of the best spots along the coast to enjoy the sunset.

Thank you, volunteers, thank you, Dive Friends Bonaire, for the free air, the drinks and the food! ■ Story & photo by Jan Brouwer

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Tue 06	First Quarter	00:36 0.23 ft	05:57 0.65 ft	14:05 -0.22 ft	20:11 0.42 ft	6:14	18:50
Wed 07		01:33 0.22 ft	06:35 0.58 ft	14:29 -0.18 ft	20:37 0.47 ft	6:13	18:50
Thu 08		02:31 0.21 ft	07:14 0.50 ft	14:52 -0.14 ft	21:04 0.52 ft	6:13	18:51
Fri 09		03:35 0.18 ft	07:55 0.41 ft	15:12 -0.09 ft	21:33 0.59 ft	6:13	18:51
Sat 10		04:43 0.14 ft	08:42 0.32 ft	15:30 -0.05 ft	22:04 0.65 ft	6:12	18:51
Sun 11		05:55 0.08 ft	09:38 0.22 ft	15:46 -0.02 ft	22:38 0.73 ft	6:12	18:51
Mon 12		07:08 0.01 ft	10:53 0.13 ft	16:01 0.01 ft	23:16 0.79 ft	6:12	18:52
Tue 13		08:15 -0.08 ft	12:31 0.07 ft	16:16 0.03 ft	23:58 0.86 ft	6:12	18:52
Wed 14		09:11 -0.16 ft	14:37 0.06 ft	16:24 0.06 ft	Full Moon	6:11	18:52
Thu 15	00:44 0.91 ft	09:58 -0.24 ft				6:11	18:52
Fri 16	01:33 0.95 ft	10:41 -0.30 ft	17:06 0.13 ft	18:36 0.13 ft		6:11	18:53
Sat 17	02:25 0.96 ft	11:20 -0.35 ft	17:24 0.19 ft	20:28 0.17 ft		6:11	18:53
Sun 18	03:17 0.95 ft	11:57 -0.38 ft	17:54 0.28 ft	22:02 0.18 ft		6:11	18:53
Mon 19	04:10 0.91 ft	12:33 -0.39 ft	18:30 0.38 ft	23:26 0.18 ft		6:10	18:53

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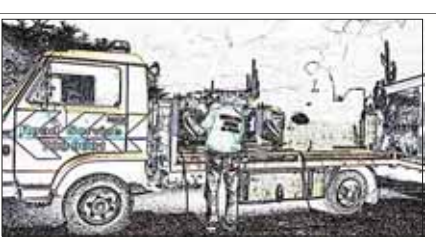
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De Freewieler sells bikes and all kinds of bike accessories. They do professional repairs on almost anything on two wheels. **Have your keys made here too.**

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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?**



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

SUPERMARKETS

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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)

Monument To Bonaire History

The Pasangrahan is an historic building next to Wilhelmina Square in Playa. It reopened on May 5 following a thorough restoration.

The Pasangrahan is one of the most impressive, beautiful and historic buildings on Bonaire. It is owned by the Island Government (Public Body Bonaire-OLB). Its restoration marks a big step in preserving Bonaire's history, culture and identity.

In 2008, significant deterioration from roof leakage was the impetus to create a comprehensive restoration project. In 2009 the OLB worked on a restoration plan and budget. With those complete, funding from the Netherlands was obtained. In 2012 the actual restoration began. After one and a half years, the project was complete.

All involved - the OLB team, government, management, the contractor, management directors, supervisors and architects have worked together in harmony. The project was led by Miguel Martis (main department policies and projects), and included Alca Sint Jago (Policy Advisor for construction and preservation and responsible for public buildings, schools and monuments), Gino Obersi (technical monuments advisor) and from the architectural firm, Streefkerk Architects, consultants, Harm Streefkerk and



The restored Pasangrahan building opposite waterfront Wilhelmina Park

Frank Paiman. The parties involved now proudly look forward to finally present the restored building to the people.

The Pasangrahan was previously used for Island Council meetings, for weddings and other formal occasions. The new setting also provides suitable space for parties, the clerk with its support staff and a museum/exhibition space open to all residents and island visitors. For the opening, the museum presented local artists and their work. At a later date, the history of the building will be exhibited.

The restoration took into account historical building methods and used local materials. This historic building has been restored according to monument policy guidelines and also meets the latest requirements. Thus it is equipped with the newest equipment and technology to make it accessible to ALL visitors. There is entrance for the disabled, a

stair lift, sound enhancement for the hearing impaired, a touch pad for the blind as well as safety equipment including alarm and a humidity control installation, all according to the latest standards. The Pasangrahan thus remains preserved as an important part of the history of Bonaire for Bonaire.

For years Bonaire's monuments were neglected and did not get the attention they deserved due to a lack of resources. A number of historical buildings thus run the risk of being beyond repair, unable to be restored to their original state. With the current building policies, new opportunities are created to protect and preserve historically significant buildings. The OLB is currently working on the list of possible monuments to see which nominated buildings can be officially recognized and become eligible for financing (low interest loans) from the Netherlands National

Restoration Fund.

The Pasangrahan was originally built by Cornelis Ravens "Bubuchi" Debrot in 1890 as a residence. The color used was in honor of the House of Orange. "Pasangrahan" is an Indonesian word meaning "guesthouse." After the death of Debrot in 1921, it became the possession of the local government and for years did function as a "Pasangrahan," the official guesthouse of the government. On March 2, 1944, during a one-day visit, Princess Juliana was made comfortable there. Since then, it often changed its function until most recently when it was used as a meeting room for the Island Council, a feature that is again possible for the foreseeable future. Again, thanks to all involved who, in any way, have made a contribution.

■ *Press release, OLB Photos.*



Gino Obersi, Alca Sint Jago, Harm Streefkerk, Frank Paiman on the steps of the Pasangrahan



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Monday, May 5—Dutch military ship Zeeland open house event, 1-4pm, at the waterfront. The Coast Guard will also be there and a fly-over of several military helicopters.

Wednesday, May 7—Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower. Peaks about 3am. More on page 2

Sunday May 11—Mothers' Day
Don't forget your mother. If it weren't for her you wouldn't be here.

Sunday, May 25—Hike to Mt. Brandaris at sunset. Sponsored by Stinapa. Only 20 places. Call 786-5229 or email washingtonpark@stinapa.org. More on page 2

Sunday, June 1 - Washington Slagbaai National Park Open House and celebration of its 45 years of existence. Admission is free. The park was established in 1969 and covers an area of 5643 hectares.

As usual, there will be a variety of food and beverages. The kid's corner will be present again this year. A kids' trail will be inaugurated on this day. There will also be a guided hiking trip for adults and a mountain bike race. Local bands will be making music for anyone who just wants to dance. **786-5229 or email washingtonpark@stinapa.org.**

Jibe City 25 Year Celebration Program

The weekend of June 7 and 8 is the main event of the 25-year celebration of Jibe City with races, a fashion show, live music and much more fun.

Fridays May 16, 23 and 30 -Training with the pros, 3pm. Pick up Party Bus at 2.30 pm at the Stadium.

Saturdays May 17, 24, June 1 - Training at 3 pm with Hang Out's Happy Hour afterwards. (Of course everybody is welcome to see old friends and share memories.)

Saturday, June 7 – Morning Race with the kids and the pros. All kids who windsurf can join. Pick up at the stadium at 8.30 am

Sign up at the Jibe City shop. (No cost)

Saturday, June 7 -Race with the grown up oldies. Starts 3 pm.

Around 6 pm ceremony followed by BBQ and live music. Coverband "Plane" from Curacao,

Jeroen and friends, like Steve, Eduard and anyone who wants to join.

Sunday, June 8- Jibe City's fashion show - 4.30 pm

With hopefully also a presentation of the Windsurf Team and World Champion Kiri if they are on the island.

DJ until around 8 pm.

More information: Monique van Gurp [mo@jibecity.com]

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

• **Landhuis DeTuin- Real Jamaican BBQ on the terrace** of the land house in the quiet countryside. Jerk Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Seafood Curry, Veggie Dish, Child's plate, Bread Pudding. On the road to Lac Bai – Kaminda Lac #101. Follow the signs, 12 noon to 6 pm. Tel. +599-786-6816, +599-701-1982. A Forsa training school.

Mondays

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

• **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

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

• **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

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

• **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 Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

Call The Reporter at 786-6518 or email or reporter@bonairenews.com if you have something HAPPENING

[@gmail.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com)



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
May 2014

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Do not let lovers cost you money or take advantage of you. Don't let your family put demands on you. You can write beautiful love letters this month. Self-deception is likely. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) An older loved one may be having problems. Get back to basics and reevaluate what is important in life. You can make new friends if you get involved in group activities. You need to concentrate on solving existing problems. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Driving too fast or double parking will result in difficulties with officials. Tempers could boil if someone you work with has not been pulling their weight. You may find yourself changing crowds. Put your efforts into physical fitness programs or competitive sports. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Loans will be attainable and legal matters easily taken care of. The stamina you possess will be apparent in your approach to your hobbies and creative projects. Don't let others know about your private affairs. Someone may not be thinking of your best interests. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Be honest in your communication and don't lose your cool. Be discreet and don't reveal any personal information. This will not be the day to lend money to friends or family. Organize your day well if you wish to accomplish all you set out to do. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You need to concentrate on your business ventures more than on your relationship this month. Enjoy some socializing this month. You will not be pleased with family members who try to put demands on you when you just don't have the time. Romance and social activity will be a promising combination. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Groups

and organizations that indulge in social events to raise money will be conducive to meeting new and exciting lovers. Job changes are in order. Go for interviews or send out resumes. You can help other people with their financial problems by setting up a budget for them. Your emotional state could leave you vulnerable and confused. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Minor health problems may lower your vitality. Relatives will be happy that you dropped by. You will expand your circle of friends if you join groups. Social functions will bring you in touch with new lovers. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Your attitude is changing rapidly and your plate is overloaded. Changes will not be easy for the youngsters involved. Get together with friends and catch up on reading and letter writing. You may want to invest in something that will grow in value. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Emotionally, things may not run so smoothly. Get involved in volunteer work that will bring you satisfaction, not an empty wallet. Social events may lead to a romantic interlude. You have to take hold of your life and make some crucial decisions. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Catch up on overdue phone calls and correspondence. Deception will play an important factor in relationships. Get involved in groups that will help you meet established individuals. Things are looking up. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

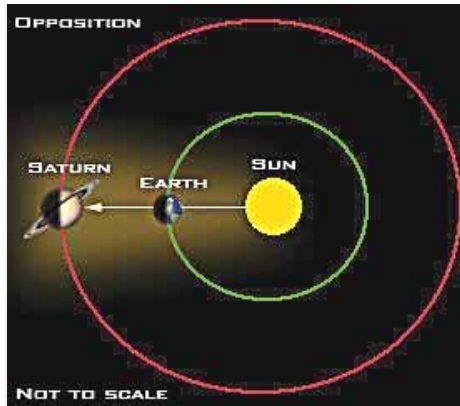
PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You can make successful moves. This might not be a day for hasty decisions. If you're uncertain of your feelings, keep your opinions to yourself. Don't count on others to cover up for your shortcomings. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday. ■



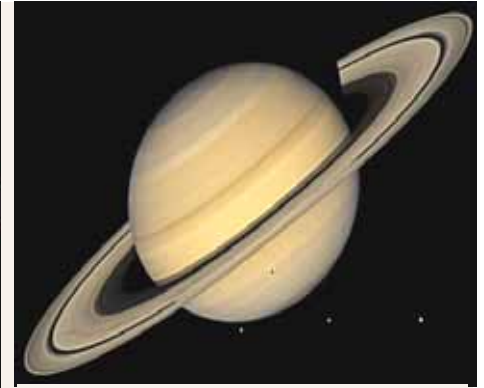
BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

THE RACE OF THE PLANETS



An opposition takes place when Earth goes between Saturn and the sun.



Saturn as seen by Voyager 2. Image via NASA.

If you had a bird's eye view of the solar system today, you'd see our planet **Earth** passing in between the **Sun** and **Saturn**. You'd see the Sun, Earth, and Saturn lining up in space. But not for long. Earth moves in orbit at 18 miles per second in contrast to about 6 miles per second for Saturn. Soon, we'll be pulling ahead of Saturn in the race of the planets.

Our fast movement in orbit brings us between Saturn and the Sun every year. The May 10 event is called **opposition** by astronomers. Opposition also brings Saturn closest to Earth for all of 2014. As a result, in May 2014 Saturn is shining most brilliantly in our sky for the year. If you recognize it tonight or in the coming month, you'll also enjoy it throughout the Northern Hemisphere summer.

The inner planets – **Mercury** and **Venus** – can never be at opposition, because they orbit the Sun inside Earth's orbit. Only the planets that orbit the sun beyond Earth's orbit – **Mars**, **Jupiter**, **Saturn**, **Uranus** and **Neptune** – can ever reach **opposition, that is, appear opposite the Sun in Earth's sky.**

All the planets farther from the Sun reach opposition every time our swifter-moving planet sweeps between the Sun and them. That happens about once a year, since Earth takes a year to orbit the Sun once, and since these outer worlds move more slowly than we do.

Saturn, the 6th planet outward from the Sun, is the most distant world that's easily

visible to the unaided eye. The ringed planet returns to opposition about 2 weeks later every year. Telescopes revealed its rings in the 17th century. Spacecraft in the 20th century revealed that what we thought of as three rings around Saturn is actually thousands of thin, finely detailed rings – made of tiny chunks of ice. Saturn also has 62 moons with confirmed orbits. Only 53 of Saturn's moons have names, and only 13 have diameters larger than 50 kilometers (about 30 miles). Saturn is truly a wondrous world of rings and moons. It's everyone's favorite thing to see through a small telescope, so if you know someone with a telescope ask them to let you view the Sky Park through it this month – you won't be disappointed.

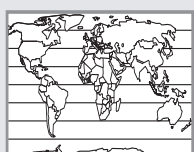
How can you find Saturn? It's not hard to find the ringed planet this month. The planet appears to the east of the blue-white star **Spica** on the sky's dome. Saturn itself is golden in color, so you should be able to tell the planet from the star. How can you find Spica? Use a phrase familiar to stargazers: follow the arc to **Arcturus** and drive a spike to Spica. In other words, first locate the Big Dipper in the northeast now in the evening. Follow the curve in its handle until you come to the orange star Arcturus in the constellation **Bootes**. Extend that line until you reach the star Spica. The planet Saturn will be lower in the sky, about 15° below Spica. For reference, a fist at an arm length approximates 10° of sky. ■

Bob Berman

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Sudoku Puzzle

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Pets of the Week

Cuddling up to keep warm and safe these three puppies were found living under a container in Antriol where their mom, a wild dog, was raising them. One of the puppies had died already. According to the Shelter staff the mom did a good job of raising them as they were fat and well nourished when they were found. These pups were saved and brought to the Shelter for care but the mom was impossible to catch. So at the moment she runs, unfettered, and can get pregnant again and again.



Three "Pupskteers" need homes

In the meantime her pups, who are about six weeks old, are living a good life with plenty of food, water and a secure and safe place where the Shelter staff gives them love and attention. Soon they will be up for adoption. They're healthy, will have had their shots, worming and sterilization when they're old enough. They have been rated as sweet, very affectionate puppies. They should be grown up to be medium sized dogs.

You may see them at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. WWWbonaireanimalshelter.com. They're on Facebook too.

Sponsors Out There?

The very much needed new cat cage is under way, but more funds are needed to finish the job. A number of years ago Harbour Village Resort provided the materials and labor to build several dog kennels. They got a lot of publicity for that—with their name and logo on the kennels (some jokingly called it "Harbour Village East!") and newspaper write-ups. Is there another company that can help and be assured of lots of good publicity. ■ *Story & photo by Laura DeSalvo*

Shelter News

Sadly, the "Super Sisters" dogs, Katja and Kerry, were returned to the Shelter very soon



after they were adopted. These dogs were on "death row" as the Shelter has only so many spaces and new dogs are coming in all the time. Like people, dogs need to have some time to get adjusted and trained to their new life. But apparently this person had no patience and expected them to do what he wanted right away. The pups were featured in this column in the April 7 and 21 editions of *The Reporter*. If you would like to give them a real chance at life, contact the Shelter at 717-4989.

Where, Oh Where, Is The Dog Catcher?

People are calling the Shelter more and more often, looking for help in catching stray dogs. People who ride bikes are complaining that they're being attacked regularly by dogs running loose. They wonder what would happen to a child on a bike.

Although it is against the law to have stray dogs running free, there is no dog catcher on the island to capture them. The Shelter has given the government a budget, asking to get a dog catcher as soon as possible. They need this desperately, but they're still waiting. So, although it's not the Shelter's job, they try to help by providing tranquilizers to give to the dogs and "have a heart" cages so they can be brought in.



Yomaira models the colorful T-shirt you can get for free when you bring in your cat or dog for free sterilization!

We Need Volunteers!

Many of our loyal volunteers have returned to their home countries so if you can spare some time—your choice of hours—and if you don't mind getting a little dirty but have lots of fun with the "inmates" we could use you. Call Marlies at 717-4989 ■

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Hammock Contemplations

PART 12 FROM THE SERIES, DOWN IN THE LAND OF BON BINI



Just the other day my good friend, Captain John, asked me for shortcut directions to get to the ridge road when leaving Rincon. "Go to the building where the Polar Beer wall advertisement used to be and turn right," I expertly instructed.

The captain stared back at me incredulously. "How do you expect me to find that landmark if it doesn't exist anymore? You've been on the island too long!" He had a point. Not about my longevity on Bonaire, but certainly about how the island, in perhaps subtle, imperceptible ways, has changed me. I decided that it was time for some serious hammock contemplation to explore this in depth.

I have a near daily ritual of retreating to my hammock in the heat of the afternoon. It hangs in the shade of the porch where the breezes blow through my home and out to sea. The hammock is a great place to chill, contemplate the cosmos or simply snooze. I tend to do all three. But on this particular afternoon I began thinking about what Captain John had pointed out. How *has* this island changed me?

There are a number of small things. For instance, I used make a bee-line to the receptionist upon entering a dentist or doctor office to let them know I was present. No longer. I have learned to first say "Bon Dia" or "Bon Tardi" upon arrival, acknowledging everyone in the waiting room. Only after the greeting is complete do I make my way to the desk.

Another example happened last week. I pulled my station wagon over to say hello to Yellow Man who was walking along Kaya Playa Lechi. I didn't do a very good job of that since the back end of the car was still on

the road. Karen in the pickup truck behind gave me a short honk and yelled out, "Look at you, Patrick. You're driving just like a local." She was right. And the people in the three vehicles behind her appeared to nod in agreement as well.



L.D. Photo

Ava, like Pat, discovered the escalator

Then there are the celebrations of new things on the island. When the Bonaire Mall on Kaya Grandi finally got their new escalator working, the first one ever here, I went over and rode the machine to the top—twice. It was great. Then someone critically pointed out that it is only one-way, that once on top you have to walk back down. I never thought about that. I guess I am from the 'glass-half-full' school of life philosophy. (Ed. Note: For the lazy or physically impaired there's an elevator in the back of



the building.)

Or how about when the new *rotonde* opened up at the intersection of Kaya Industria and Kaya International a few years back.



Road "teeth" mean yield

I remember that grand day clearly.

Approaching the traffic circle everything screamed, "I AM NEW!" in the blazing afternoon sun. Bold, white lines commanded where to stop. The new asphalt was deep black from being poured just the day before. Letters painted on the yellow, circular centerpiece greeted those just released from the Flamingo Airport, "Bon Bini Na Bonaire"—welcome to Bonaire. It was overwhelming. I was euphoric. I sped about the circle once-twice-three times, laughing madly all the way. My equilibrium-challenged spouse was duly unimpressed and as I approached the fourth orbit, I was sternly urged to abort the mission and begin re-entry. "Oh, ok," I mumbled and obediently steered my earth orbiter Subaru onto Kaya Industria.

You can imagine with these changes in attitudes what it is like for me to change latitudes upon leaving the island. Each year, I dutifully return to the States to see family. But increasingly I feel out of place in the country where I was born. For one, I have to wear real shoes there. Plus the traffic is horrendous. People are in hyper-warp—talking, texting and driving all at the same time. There is little room for *poco poco* there. When I visit a supermarket I get lost among the four, 20-meter long aisles of fro-

zen foods. All I want is a bag of frozen peas! At a cocktail party hosted by my lovely sister, an urban-elegant girlfriend of hers inquires, "What is it that you exactly *do* everyday on your tiny island?" I begin to answer, but stop. How can I express my excitement about orbiting our new rotunda to this lady? I take a sip of chardonnay instead and safely reply, "Not much."

Coming back on the United flight from Newark, I await touchdown. Exiting the plane, I get that first blast of warm, tropical air. Yes, back on the island. The next morning, I awake early. First light reveals the silhouette of a palm swaying in slow motion outside my window. First wind delivers the soft whirling noise from the wind generators mounted on the visiting yachts in the bay. First sounds come from a backyard rooster in the neighborhood as he crows his morning salute. A troupiel responds with a multi-colored melody. The question from the cocktail party lady comes to mind and I simply smile. What *will* I do today? Ahhh, let me count the ways...



POST SCRIPT

Days after my return from the States, I ran into Captain John. He confessed that my oblique directions to the ridge road out of Rincon were not the worst that he has ever received down island. One time while anchored on the eastern Caribbean island of Antigua, he asked the best way to get from Falmouth Harbor to Shirley Heights, a look-out notorious for its Sunday parties of rum and reggae. A local told him to follow the road out of town and turn right where the cow was. The captain was skeptical, but made his way up the hill. After a while he saw a man ahead leading a cow by rope along the road. "I asked him if he could show me where he had his cow staked for the day. The farmer complied and returned to the spot with me and his cow in tow," says John. Once there, the thirsty sailor got his orientation, took a right as earlier instructed and made his way up to the best party on Antigua. ■ Story & five photos by Patrick Holian



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