

**It's Still FREE**

# **BONAIRE** November 10-24, 2014 - Year 21, Issue 22 **The REPORTER**

**BES Island News Too**

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 786-6125, [www.bonairereporter.com](http://www.bonairereporter.com) email: [reporter@bonairenews.com](mailto:reporter@bonairenews.com) Since 1994



**Bonaire Study and Career Fair**  
**What are these people doing?**  
**See Page 10**

Sanny Ensing photo



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# Flotsam and Jetsam

## BOINAIRE The REPORTER

**The 2014/2015 Cruise Season started November 8th.** For the current 2014 - 2015 peak winter cruise season, Bonaire is projecting approximately 190,000 passenger arrivals, an increase of 20,000 passengers compared to the previous high season. Sections of downtown Kralendijk will be closed for vehicles whenever there are more than 1,200 passengers per day. Additional information regarding the Cruise Schedule is available in *The Reporter* Happenings section or on line at: [http://www.tourismbonaire.com/includes/Cruise\\_Calendar.pdf](http://www.tourismbonaire.com/includes/Cruise_Calendar.pdf)

► **There is a big need for foster parents for some Bonaire children.** There are two stories in this edition that can help you understand the need on pages 4 and 19. Read them and if you can help contact **Jeugdzorg en Gezinsvoogdij Caribisch Nederland at 715-7201 or [info.jeugdzorgcn@jeugdzorgcn.com](mailto:info.jeugdzorgcn@jeugdzorgcn.com).**



► **A two-year training program for police officers began on November 3, on Bonaire.** The program is a partnership between the Police Corps Caribbean Netherlands (KPCN), the Coast Guard and the Royal Military Police (Kmar). Twenty-six individuals will be enrolled in the course.

The students will learn about policing, tracing crimes and rendering emergency assistance in several modules. The training will take place at school and on the job. Because of the collaboration this can be very diverse, varying from different locations on Bonaire to boats of the Coast Guard. Each module is completed with an exam.

After two years all candidates will hold a certificate at level 3 of intermediate vocational education (MBO-3) and graduates can work on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba as general criminal investigation officers. The graduates of the Coast Guard can also be deployed at all Dutch Caribbean islands.

► **The Island Government plans to inventory all kunuku (farm) land** with a view to determine if the land is being used according to the terms of the rental agreement. In recent years there has been a growing interest in having a kunuku. Land rental costs are low compared to land lease or purchase. **Bonaire's street names will**

**also soon be tabulated** and proper signage put in place where it is lacking. Traffic control signs will be added if needed as well.

► **On Wednesday, October 30, Bonaire's Postal Service Operator, Flamingo Dutch Caribbean Express (FXDC), presented its first stamps to the Governor of Bonaire.** The new stamps are unique because they are designed by FXDC and printed on Bonaire by its sister company Flamingo Communications.



Uniquely you can scan the stamps for a special message with a special App, Cee, which can be installed on any smartphone for free.

FXDC is building a new fleet of cars, scooters and quads to service its clients and has renovated the downtown post office.

► **The last KLM Royal Dutch Airlines flight operated with a three-engine wide-body McDonnell Douglas MD-11, an aircraft that formerly served Bonaire,** was retired in Amsterdam with much fanfare at the end of last month.



Yet, for all its sleek lines, the MD-11 was a commercial flop that sold only 200 planes over a production run from 1988 to 2000, and was haunted by a poor safety record. Conceived by McDonnell Douglas as a bigger successor to the DC-10, which was also retired this year, it was plagued by issues including higher fuel usage than anticipated and poor reliability in its initial years. The MD-11 was famously hard to land and especially balky when the wind came from its side. According to data published by Boeing and updated through 2013, it had had far more accidents than contemporary large jets. The MD-11 was almost four times more likely to crash, statistically, than the Boeing 747 series 400.

► **A short film about Bonaire and the foresight of Captain Don Stewart in protecting its reefs won a gold at the 41<sup>st</sup> edition of the famous Festival Mondial de l'Image Sous-Marine.** The Festival is a four-day film and photo exhibition with 60 exhibitors at the Parc Chanot conference

center in Marseille, France. For the first time in the 41-year history of the festival - a Dutch filmmaker, Edward Snijders, won the Palme d'Or (Golden Palm) for his film: **Bonaire Bonaanza**.



► **The project to bring home the last surviving Bonaire-built freight boat has begun.** A Foundation has been formed to restore the *Stormvogel* with Bòi Antoin, president; Eric van de Keuken, treasurer; Patrick Holian, secretary/communications; and Johnny Craane, member-at-large and head of restoration. Of course they will need donations to make this a reality, but it's a long-term project divided into four manageable phases. See the story on page 15 for details. Currently the Foundation needs start up money for Phase 1- Bringing *Stormvogel* Home.



► **Five years ago, Mangasina: The Storehouse opened its first "self-storage" building in Hato.** Thanks to the overwhelming support of island residents, businesses and tourists, two more buildings were added and all three buildings have been "sold out" for the last several months. To accommodate the island's increased demand for personal and business storage space, The Storehouse has just erected a fourth brand new building with 63 storage spaces in five different sizes, from 5x5 feet to 10x20 feet. See their ad on Pg. 11.

► **Pass by the Dia di BONAIRE BASICS on Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup>** It's a free (with donations welcome) wellness event with yoga, meditation, and more. All donations go to the *Pasku Briante*, Christmas celebration for Bonaire children. Everyone is welcome to view and/or experience! Participation is optional. Bonaire Basics at Kaya Korona 47. More on page 12.

► **The Bon Bida Spa and Gym on northern hotel row has announced very affordable prices.** For example, pay \$65 monthly on the one-year membership and get it all: unlimited access, modern fitness equipment, expertly taught group classes, on-site instructors and

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From Bonaire Nautico Marina in front of It Rains Fishes Restaurant

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# New Stores Open



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► There have been NO reports of Ebola in Bonaire. World-wide there is great attention focused on



Ebola and the fight against it. The islands in the Caribbean, including Bonaire, are working with international organizations to take appropriate preventative measures. Ebola is a disease named after the Ebola River in the Congo where the virus was first found in 1976. It's a rare but serious infectious disease that occurs in Africa and is associated with bleeding in the body. It's contagious through direct physical contact with a patient via blood, vomit, sweat, feces and urine or by slaughtering and eating a sick animal or, as been



Donna Wuyts opened Penny Lane, a consignment shop last week. It's Bonaire's first fashion consignment shop featuring top name brands.

► Two new stores opened this month that offer good value to shoppers, especially important with holiday gift-giving time approaching. Both offer name brands at some of the island's lowest prices.

Penny Lane is Bonaire's first upscale consignment store. Bring your quality lightly used clothes and Penny Lane will sell them and share the proceeds with you. They have a big stock of clothes and accessories with labels like An Klein, Banana Republic, Gap, The

highlighted recently, by spreading germs traveling inside droplets that are coughed or sneezed from a sick person and enter the eyes, nose, or mouth of another person. Droplets travel short distances, less than 3 feet (1 meter) from one person to another. Like the flu it can spread easily because when a person sneezes and some saliva droplets land on a surface like for example a doorknob another person just has to touch the doorknob and then his eye or nose or mouth and the second victim is born.

The Ebola virus does not spread through the air or by mosquitoes. For questions and / or more information contact the Department of Public Health at tel 717-8839.

► Welcome Nature's Discount as a Bonaire Reporter advertiser. In the well-stocked shop you will find what you need for good health and more. See their ad on this page.

► Pizza lovers, did you know that Pasa Bon Pizzas are so deli-



Some of the staff at Best Cellars: Elke Didden, Michi Zhen, Roan van Laar, Sara vd Woerd, Gardenia Sint Jago, and owner Deepak Daryanani

Limited, Zara and more at tremendous discounts from their original prices. Find them on the second floor at Kaya Grandi 23, across from Gio's Ice Cream. See their ads in this issue.

Best Cellars (above) features wines and liquors as well as bulk sales of tobacco products, glassware and accessories. They are in the wholesale district off Kaya Industria across from Bonaire Food Group. There is plenty of free parking. See their ad on page 9.

cious and fresh that you can bring them home, divide them up and put them in the freezer for when you're dying for a real pizza – not one of the dry, boring ones you get in the box in the supermarket. Just pop them in the oven or microwave, and your pizza hunger is satisfied with a quality product. So just order an extra one to bring home next time. Thanks to the brainstorming pizza lover group who came up with this one. Of course, fresh is best.



► Santa comes to Bonaire on November 22 via boat to Wilhelmina Plaza. Be there to greet him. ■ G./L.D.

## Penny Lane Exchange

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# On The Island Since... 1995 and 2002 - Desiree and Don Seaver

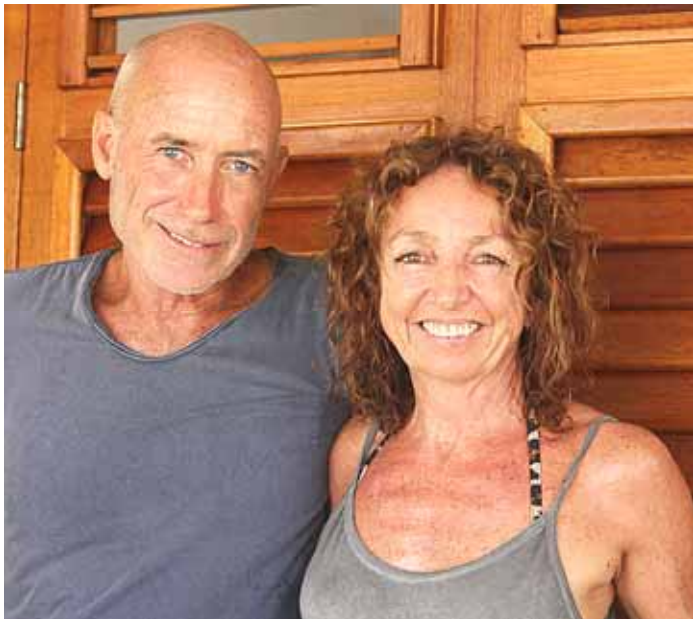
“I came with the intention of staying here for a year or two,” *Desiree says*. “Basically I was on my way to Australia, where I lived from when I was two until I was 15 and we moved to Holland. But pretty soon after I’d arrived here, I found a job in a very small hair salon called ‘Artistic Touch’ and I worked there for four months as a hairstylist. Then I moved on to Harbor Village where the spa opened in September 1995. We were 10 people of all nationalities; it was a fantastic time! I was running the hair salon, did the reception and also the body treatments.

Then I was introduced to yoga by George (Jorge) from Peru. He told me, ‘Yoga is something you can do for your whole life,’ and that single phrase made the click between me and yoga. It was my first introduction, but soon after I became friendly with Amazon.com and started self-practices of yoga with the help of videos and books. Then, in 1997, Omaira, Alda and I started ‘A Place for You’ at Kaya Korsou: facials, massages, pedicures and hair styling. The yoga had become a very big part of my daily life and on Sundays we would practice with a small group of friends, with a video and a brunch. One day I mentioned to them that my dream was that I would like to teach yoga when I was older - at the time I was 38 years old - so they encouraged me to teach them and to give them a class. My first yoga class was at ‘A Place for You’, for three lady friends - Lynne, Paulette and Lous - and standing there in front of them I knew this was what I really wanted to do, then my journey began. I have to say many thanks to Judith Tjin from Bio Beverly at Plaza, because she gave me my first Ashtanga video and it was a short form, half an hour or a 45-minute class.

Although yoga was a very important part of my life, I still loved to party. I went out a lot, I loved dancing, I drank and I smoked and we had a big group of fun people. I used to come home around 4:30 in the morning. Nowadays I get up at that hour. Since Rick is with us, it’s the only time I have for myself to do my yoga practice! But I have to say I really lived and I discovered a lot of sides of myself and then I met Don in 2001.”

*Don says*, “I came here for the first time in 1995 to windsurf, and from then on every year. I’d moved from Vermont to Florida and was teaching windsurfing with Burr Hazen who had a school on Bonaire and in Florida. I was also involved in yoga and in 1995 I did my first yoga teacher training.

At Sorobon I met Ernst van Vliet, who had the windsurfing school there and we



Don and Desiree



Desiree and Coco, Omar, Rick and Don - the Seaver family

were teaching from the old hotel ruins (in the center of the Sorobon area - it doesn’t exist anymore) where we had an enclosed section of the foundation. Burr and I would take turns coming here during windy season. When Ernst would go on vacation I would come down to watch his place when he was closed.

When I came in September 2001 I met Desiree through Ernst. I liked her blue

**“My future is to find the best path for this little boy and my dream is to allow him to express himself to his full potential. We want to provide opportunities for him.”**

jeans,” *he grins*, “and her smile and then we realized we had a lot in common.”

“That’s when our yoga journey together started,” *Desiree says*. “We’ve done yoga teacher training and workshops together in Florida, Culebra (Puerto Rico) and Massachusetts. We still continue following workshops on our present travels.

Don moved here in 2002 and we got married December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004. A year later we started building our house in the kunuku. Living off the grid was something new to me, but for Don, who had lived in rural Vermont it was peanuts! Don was still working at Jibe City and I was doing hair and yoga. We didn’t travel; we were busy here and working.

In 2008 we travelled to Australia for a vacation. We loved it but we came back to Bonaire and continued our lives. Don worked at Bellafonte and I did the cruise ship market for two years, selling salt. I also made jewelry and of course I did the yoga and the hair. In 2010 we did the Kripalu yoga teacher training course in Massachusetts for a month. Then we came back and started our yoga studio at Bon Bida. Before that I’d been moving around the whole island from one location to another and Don just kept painting and repainting all these places. Then, after a year, I moved to Bonaire Basics on

Kaya Korona and I’m still there. And let me take the opportunity to tell you that this coming Saturday, November 15th, Bonaire Basics organizes a free wellness event (any donations will go to Pasku Briante, Christmas celebration for Antillean children), with yoga, meditation, Reiki, massages and art as Don will hold his first exhibition of his carved wooden statues. The event is from 7am to 1 pm

with us permanently.”

*She laughs*. “So here I am at 52 and Don at 66 and we have this five-year old son. Life has changed completely! It’s not easy, but the moments of joy make up for the difficult time. We are so happy that Rick came to live with us. I was always tired and I didn’t know why, but now I do have a reason, hahaha! And our outlook on life has totally changed because now family comes first and I want to spend as much time with Rick as possible. Also, through Rick I’ve felt how important my own family is to me.”

*Don continues*, “What it does when you have kids is that all of a sudden you realize how much your parents meant to you. Like my son is having a baby for the first time and I told him ‘Now you know how much I love you’. That’s what you experience when you have kids, and for Desiree it’s the first time. My kids are totally okay with it. A couple of years ago we took Rick to the States and my children and my grandkids instantly loved him. During Thanksgiving my 18-year old granddaughter introduced him to their friends as their uncle! Two of my grandchildren are six and four and now there’s Rick who’s five and I feel such a richness to go through it again. Of course I realize that when Rick is 15 I will be 76 and therefore my brain says, ‘Don’t do this’, but then my heart says, ‘Do it!’ And...” *he smiles*, “we made a decision not to worry about the future and to do something now. My future is to find the best path for this little boy and my dream is to allow him to express himself to his full potential. We want to provide opportunities for him. This our dream.” *They look at each other and Desiree smiles*. “I’ve been on Bonaire for almost 20 years and it’s a giving and receiving,” *She says*. “The island gave me Don and then Rick and for now it’s where I am supposed to be. I am very, very blessed living here the way we are living and we have wonderful people in our life.” ■

Story & photos by  
Greta Kooistra



# Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Switzerland



Regula and Daniel Schubiger wrote: "We can hardly await our return to Bonaire. To shorten the meantime we very much appreciate receiving *The Bonaire Reporter* in Switzerland. This is where we live and from where we send you our warmest greetings." ■

# Picture Yourself With The Reporter in The Ecuador Rainforest



Florence Ditlow and Genady Filkovsky went on vacation in the rainforest of Ecuador along with a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter*. They sent this photo from the Hausquila Amazon Lodge, where the rainforest is being reclaimed. They are showing *The Reporter* to a Capuchin monkey in an animal rescue center, the Amazoo Rescue Center. ■

## We Would Love to Print YOUR Photo!

Prize for the best photo of the year too. Send to [info@bonairereporter.com](mailto:info@bonairereporter.com) WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home overseas. Snap a photo and send in.

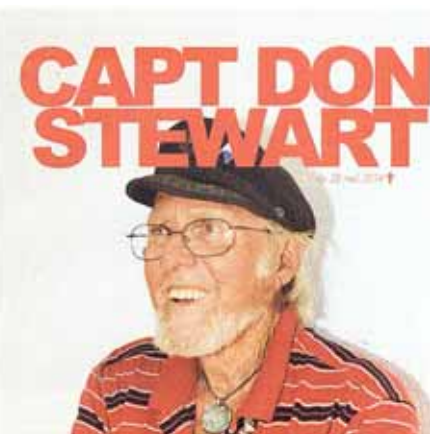


## An Open Letter to Bonaire

Since the passing of Captain Don Stewart, a few months ago, I would like to ask this question of Bonaire: "What happens next?" I only ask because as of this date nobody I've spoken with so far seems to have an answer. Now, I'm not saying that there isn't anything being done, I'm only saying that I haven't heard of any plans being made, or committees looking into it.

There is no question as to Captain Don's love of Bonaire and its people! There is no argument as to his influence and vision in helping to shape Bonaire's development. So that makes me ask the question to everyone on Bonaire "What happens next?"

Is there a committee making plans to (1) Name a street after him (2) Dedicate a day as Captain Don's Day (could be a day during Regatta, his birthday, or the day he came to Bonaire) (3) A statue in



a place of honor to remind us and those who visit of his vision, his achievements in helping to make Bonaire a world leader in so many areas.

When the next celebration of Captain Don Stewart's life occurs for whatever reason I hope there will be from Bonaire a real and tangible honor given to a man who truly deserves it.

May we all, forever, swim in his light!

Moogie

## MADURO BANK CARES

Dear Editor:

A few weeks ago I had to pay for my insurance and decided to go in person to the new MCBB insurance office on the corner of LD Gerharts and Gob. Debrot. To my dismay, I found there was no way for me to access the sidewalk in my scooter mobile. I did finally figure out that I could enter the parking lot adjacent the office, however, but there was a cement wall still blocking my way. To make a long story short, I alerted MCBB management and within a matter of days, the wall was removed and now wheel chairs, scoot mobiles, walkers, etc. can enter the sidewalk and the office with ease!

This is an example of the community spirit that MCBB has shown to Bonaire and how the cooperation with the disabled citizens has made a difference.



Oswald Melcherts (MiVaBo), Leonard Domacasse (MCB), Valarie Stimpso (MCB), and Michael Gaynor are pleased with the solution at the BSure Insurance office.

The majority of the merchants need to follow the example that the bank has set and when a client who is disabled brings a problem with accessibility to their attention, they do something! Thank you MCBB!

Michel Gaynor, MiVaBo (Handicap Association Bonaire))

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

## Sudoku Solution

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

# Bonairean Sailors At The Sunfish World Championships

*TOUGH RACES WITH NO WIND AND STRANGE RIVER CURRENTS*

Bonaire/Kralendijk – Recently the six sailing representatives of Bonaire and their companion, Cyril Thode, returned from Arapahoe, North Carolina, where they represented Bonaire during the Sunfish World Championships, on a five-mile stretch of open water on the Neuse River.

Brayan Thode, Kabes, Yellowman, “Opa” (“Grandfather”/jb), Sipke Stapert and DJRacabur have been fighting for the flag of Bonaire, accompanied by Brayan’s father, Cyril Thode.

The first day of the championship 72 sailors appeared on the water with their brand new Sunfishes. Unfortunately there was hardly any wind which is a huge handicap for our Bonairean sailors as they are used to the tough trade winds. The next day the wind picked up a little so results were better. Races were cancelled on the third day because of heavy rainfall and a lack of wind. The fourth day wind picked up again. Then all sailors had to deal with strange and unpredictable currents caused by the heavy rain from the day before.

Opa says, “After all races Sipke Stapert

signed for the 26th position out of 72. My final position was 38. Kabes ended as 47th and Brayan Thode was number 50. Yellowman was number 58. Races were tough. Our bunch of six Bonaireans had to fight against 66 other sailors; 50 of them were Americans. Brayan Thode, our 17-year-old Bonairean talent, especially did a good job. He left 22 competitors behind him! Brayan sailed the Bonaire Regatta with his broken foot in a cast. When the doctors removed the cast they discovered that something went wrong during the healing process so they have to break his foot again! Despite the pain Brayan sailed all races and finished over all as number 50!”

The bunch of six sailors learned a lot from these races. The more wind, the better the results. Currents are better known by locals. Our sailors had frustrating experiences because of the effects of the currents. They also found out other countries had coaches who checked out the wind, the water and the current. With that extra information they could effectively assist their sailors.

Opa continues, “Next year’s World



*Brayan Thode, in the center (sail number 4434), just rounded the mark ( a competition buoy). Yellowman (sail number 4429) is close to him.*



*The team is ready*

will start at 13:00 because then the wind picks up to 15 knots or more. Wind, that’s what we need!”

The six sailors from the Bonaire Sailing School Association would like to thank their sponsors: Insel Air, Fundashon Wega di Number Boneiru, TCB (Tourism Cooperation Bonaire), Akkermans Auto Supplies, Gio’s Gelateria & Cafeteria, Krioyo Paint, Cadushy Distillery, Paradise Rentals, Firgos, Budget Marine and Buena Vista Optics. ■

*Story & photos by Jan Brouwer*



Championships will be organized in the Pacific Ocean off Peru. Every day races

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# Diving For Debris



Bonaire/Kralendijk – On Saturday, October 18th, Dive Friends Bonaire organized their Fourth Quarterly Clean-up Dive of this year. 117 volunteers joined the tour de force. 1034 items were recovered from the bottom of the sea.

Get together was at the Dive Inn location of Dive Friends Bonaire. The organization had erected a huge white tent to create more space for signing up and information. This time it was Carolyn Caporusso who informed the volunteers

about the process of recovery of waste from the sea. (Normally Asko Zuidam informs the divers but he is in Europe, walking the famous pilgrim road to Santiago.) This time's goal was the underwater world of the South Pier. After the photo of the bunch of volunteers was taken at the Cha Cha Beach pier, in front of Dive Inn, all divers entered the water to disappear, looking for trash and treasures. Weather situations were good. No current, nice temperature of the sea water.

All in all, the divers collected 1034 items of trash and valuables. Among the normal amount of bottles, cups, cans and plates there were 153 pieces of lost or broken fishing line. This time's interesting items were: four towels, four pairs of sunglasses, two locks, one chair and one pair of well rinsed underpants.

After a personal clean-up and a little time for a nap the divers met at a pot luck barbecue at the beautiful Hamlet location of Dive Friends. Most divers were right in time to enjoy the sunset. It was Carolyn Caporusso again who informed the audi-

ence about the salvaged items.

After a raffle the hungry and thirsty divers could satisfy their needs. As always a drink and the meat were supplied by Dive Friends Bonaire and their sponsors. All volunteers took care of all kinds of side orders and delicious deserts.

Thanks again Dive Friends for organizing this huge operation and for the supply of free air. Thanks volunteers for helping us. Without you we cannot make this world better. And remember: without blue there is no green! ■ *Story & photo by Jan Brouwer*

			
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# Open Water For Special Olympics

Special Olympics is a global organization that serves more than 4 million athletes with intellectual disabilities working with hundreds of thousands of volunteers and coaches each year. Since the establishment of Special Olympics in 1968, the number of people with and without intellectual disabilities who are involved with the organization has been growing. Bonaire's first participation was in the 1998 games in North Carolina. Since then our team has traveled the world every four years to Ireland, China and other places. Next year they go to Los Angeles, US.

Bonaire has strong, experienced athletes and dedicated volunteers who provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Those activities give them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship.

It's at the local level--right here--where interested volunteers meet the athletes. That's where the perceptions start to change and where the miracle of transfor-



Three athletes close on the finish line in the seafront course

mation takes place.

The team depends entirely on donations from individuals and business to operate and send the team to the Special Olympic event.

There is year-round fundraising. The latest was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Open Water Event on Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup> held on the Bonaire waterfront. This event and a BBQ was put on by Lions Club Bonaire in order to get more funds for the LA World Games in 2015. ■ G.D.



# Word on the Street

Offers items that cannot be confirmed that are being discussed "on the street"

The last and this issue (page 19) of *The Reporter* featured a look at many of the restaurants that have come and gone on Bonaire over the last 21 years. More recently however, there has been flurry of activity in openings and closings on the island.



• **Appetite Restaurant** on Kaya Grandi has been closed. Word on the street is that the owners of **At Sea Restaurant** are taking over the location and will open a second operation that is being billed as a "casual Caribbean style" restaurant.

• **Don de Leone**, former manager at Karel's Beach Bar, has opened **Cafe di Mar Lounge**, located at the former site of La Luna restaurant. The "soft" opening was during Regatta and word on the street is that a more "official" opening with more "specials" is set for late November, early December. You can check their page on Facebook at Cafe di Mar.

• **Mack de Kamper** (Road Service Bonaire) and another partner have taken over the former Lee's Bar/C'est Le Vie location. The "**Burgers and Beer**" rock and blues cafe opened last week. Beer and cocktails are being served with the "burgers" and food to be offered within the next few weeks.

• The restaurant "La Barca" closed several months ago. However, with renovations and a new look "**The Boat**" restaurant has opened at the same location with new ownership. The menu features daily specials and Krioyo food (local cuisine).

• Island entrepreneur **Deepak Daryanani** has opened another new venture. "Best Cellars" is a wine, beer, "spirits" and cigars store located across the street from Bonaire Food Group. Featuring an expanded selection of the "hard to get" spirits he carries at Bonaire Gift Shop on Kaya Grandi, this additional location makes it a lot easier for local shoppers to pick up their wine and liquor needs where you can actually find a place to park! See page 3 and 9 for more information.

• Observant eyes may have noticed that a large part of the former City Cafe is being torn down. Local newspaper *extra* reports that one of the owners of the property says the idea is to clear a large portion of the property and create a **temporary "plaza" for the cruise ship season**. The plaza will offer people the opportunity to set up stands/tents to sell their wares to the cruise ship tourists. The advantage is that the stands/tents will not have to be taken down when the ships are not in port because the location does not interfere with public space or traffic. ■

Bula Bonchi



# Conch and Lac Bay

Human kind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.

The symbiotic relationship that Lac and the conch have endured for centuries has amazed scientists and everyday people alike. Which of these came first-Lac or the conch?

You may click on a map of Bonaire, in particular Lac to get a better idea and understanding of Lac's location on the southwest side of Bonaire. Several important factors have played important roles throughout history, like the persistent northeasterly trade winds it is

exposed to, protection of wind reversals from the west side of the island, easily accessible to open sea and its proximity to the mainland. It has the largest lagoon of the Dutch Antilles: from north to south its length is 3.9 kilometers; from east to west it's .3km. It covers approximately 7.5 square km.

Lac is sealed off from the sea by a shallow reef dam which produces



Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*)



a constant crashing and tumbling of waves when the winds blow. When the winds die down it is as eerie as anything you can imagine.

Between the lagoon and Cai, the east peninsula of Lac, is a natural opening to the sea: *Boka di Lac* (Lacs' mouth). This peninsula has been populated by Bonaireans for centuries. Northwest of Cai is a

string of islands made up of sand. Some have grasses. All around these 'islands' and on the edges the mangroves dominate.

As a wetland, Lac has suffered under many different periods of change, both made by nature and man.

In the distant past these waters and grounds were populated by Indians. The conch was an important food source. In order to remove the meat from the shell of the Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) part of the top of the shell was broken thus removing the snail at the bottom. Shell remains have been found through out the area. The most recent of piles are found at Cai. Other gastropod species known to have been consumed by Indians are the Murex; Citarium

Pica. The weather plays an important part in the survival of conch. The wind, tides, water temperature, rain, silt, condition of the sand bottom, food, oxygen and salinity—all contribute to an excellent produced conch.

As a breeding chamber for fish and other species, this wetland has contributed to Bonaire's economy and prosperity for many years. The area called Cai has been a fisherman's village for as long as many can remember: fishermen who know when to venture out to sea and when to stay in port and make their nets and salt their catch. ■

Christie Dovale



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# The Original Faces Of Don Seaver

“For me there is a life in the face; I look at it and it creates an emotion in me, and if it can do that in other people too, that would be nice. I just start carving; I make a nose, an eye, a mouth and then it ends up looking like something. The faces come by themselves. Sometimes I have an idea what I want it to look like, but that doesn't mean that that face will come out. The pieces I like the most are the ones I created when I just let go, no expectations of what it's going to look like – just do it!

All the wood is imported exotic hardwood – I find it on the east coast. Some pieces weigh more than 80 kilos. There was this big American guy, Gary, with young muscles, and he picked up things that I could barely move! I am very grateful to him.

I am from Vermont in the States. As a kid I would roam the woods where I found the quiet, the peacefulness. Vermont is rural with mountains, and it has four very distinctive seasons. Your life evolves around those seasons. Winters are long and severe, summers are short and the falls are brilliant. In the summer you had to get ready for winter while you just wanted to run around and enjoy summer. We lived like we were part of nature, with the seasons and the hunting seasons. You have to; you don't have a choice. People in Vermont have a good work ethic because they depend on the season. If you don't do it now, you won't get a second chance.

My kids are all like that; they have a strong work ethic and I am proud of them all. I raised my family there. In the States I have three children: two girls and one boy and five

grandchildren. On Bonaire I have my little son; he's five and a half – an amazing kid.

When I raised my kids I had an insurance business and then I took my tie off and became a photographer and it was the same for me then because I liked 'shooting' faces. Now, when I carve, the eyes are the toughest part and the most difficult because they are always the soul of the piece. The emotion of the piece comes through the eyes.

I started carving when we moved to a kunuku. I like to sketch - only portraits- faces – people's faces. I guess I don't know when and how I started going three-dimensional. Often times I look at a piece of wood for days at different angles and then I come to a point and tell myself, 'just do something!' Then I make the first cut and from there it's like 'keep on moving, go on, and keep carving' and I stand back without judging it. I follow my instincts and stay in that moment and then I end up with whatever I end up with! If I do that then the outcome and the doing is way more interesting than when I try to control it.

Well, on Saturday, November 15, there will be an exhibition of my work at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47, across from Botica Korona from 7am to 1pm during a yoga event where all the yoga teachers of Bonaire will be present. People can just come and experience my statues, yoga and different types of massage and taste healthy snacks and drinks.

Why am I doing the exhibition? I guess to get more space in my mind. It's time for the kids to leave the nest!" ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Don Seaver joins his lineup of faces



Part of Don's collection and works in progress

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# Bonaire Study & Career Fair - 2014

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR BONAIRE'S YOUNGSTERS

This year's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Study & Career Fair on Saturday, November 8, was an opportunity for all youngsters and their families to see what their futures could be. How very fortunate that such a fair exists for young people to be able to see for themselves what a grand selection there is from which to choose.

The event was informative, fun and well attended. A great number of people came to visit the numerous stands at Jong Bonaire's location in Kralendijk, amongst them many young adults focused on the continuation of their education abroad.

Three different 'halls' contained a selection of Bonaire's professional community and a choice of various universities and colleges that supplied information to parents and students. At the entrance of the fair the Water and Energy Company (WEB) of Bonaire explained visitors how their various piping systems works and youngsters were encouraged to try to connect an assortment of pipes. Selibon, Bonaire waste management, was informing people on ways to reprocess and reuse garbage while NGO Platform Bonaire explained to onlookers the various volunteer positions available on Bonaire as well as paid vacancies with island foundations.

Resorts on Bonaire were represented by Divi Flamingo Beach Resort and Buddy Dive Resort. Situated at a table between the resorts, Chef Floris Van Loo (Rum Runners) was hosting a game of food tasting: toss two dice, and according to the numbers tossed, different bites were selected. Blindfolded, you had to try and guess what you were tasting, a very popular stop for visitors (*on the cover*).

Further along the Fundashon Mariadal (Health Care Bonaire) was well represented and the various departments had their own information table. The Fundashon's head chef prepared some of the local delicacies that are

served in the hospital and care institutions on Bonaire, such as *bolo de brun* (a brown cake), the popular dessert called *Glas Kibra* (broken glass), *Letter di Pinda* cookies and *Chukulati Pinda*, a hot chocolate and peanut concoction – all delicious.

Large institutions such as Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland (RCN-Dutch Caribbean Kingdom Service) and Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire (Bonaire Island Government), the Fire Department and Maduro and Curiel's Bank (MCB) were present but so were the smaller professionals such as Falki Aviation Bonaire, a pilot trainer program, popular with the youngsters due to their flight simulator, Jacobs Architects, motivating youth for a future in architecture and *Boneiru Duradero*, giving information on hydroponics and sustainable farming possibilities.

The educational hall featured a variety of schools such as Fundashon Forma (Adult Education), De Haagse Hogeschool (College of The Hague in the Netherlands) and the Christelijke Hogeschool Ede (Christian College Ede in the Netherlands), Florida State University, the University of Louisiana, Indian Hills Community College Iowa, and the more local players, the College of the Dutch Caribbean and the university of Aruba.

Celia Fernandes Pedra, chairman of the Ban Boneiru Bèk Foundation explained that this was the 11<sup>th</sup> Study and Career Fair on Bonaire and the 8<sup>th</sup> organized by Ban Boneiru Bèk. "With the fair, the organization wants to motivate youth on the island to choose a study direction and a profession that allows them to do well on the Bonairean job market. It enables us to bring the various players on the island together," she explained. Fernandes Pedra added that she was satisfied with the outcome and organization of this year's Study and Career Fair. ■

Story & photos by Sammy Ensing

## HERE'S WHAT SOME OF THE VISITORS THOUGHT:



**Anais Pauletta (15)**

"I am a student at the *Liseo Bonaireano* and I came to the fair because I want to look for a school to continue my education. I want to study in the States. I have already made my choice. I want to attend the University of Louisiana. I am happy that they are here at the fair, that way it is more personal and I can get all the information I need. My parents also know the people and the university which makes me feel safer."



**Jaywand Cicilia (17) and Manoushka Singosemito (18)**

"We are in the HAVO 5 exam class and want to find out more about registering for schools in The Netherlands, study financing and housing. We are interested in studying in the field of education or nursing (Manoushka) and the technical field (Jaywand.) We'd both like to come back to Bonaire after our study but only if there is work available locally. We thought the information given to us here at the fair was a little vague. We would have liked to

get a more detailed explanation, more how-to steps, on studying abroad."



**Undine Nahorst (44) with sons Tyzick Pourier (12) and Corbin Pourier (7)**

"I am here with my sons to start orientation on future career possibilities for them. The youngest likes to be a pilot and is having a go with the flight simulator at Falki Aviation. We had a look at the WEB stand and they explained how to be more careful with water and the boys constructed pipes. Some booth holders are more motivated than others so some stands are more attractive than others and (laughs) the gadgets help."



**Elyandra De Jongh (27)**

"I am doing my graduation research here in Bonaire at the Fundashon Forma. I am studying in The Netherlands at the mo-

ment. I think this fair gives you a lot of information on what job opportunities are available after you graduate. I have visited the booths of Fundashon Mariadal, the MCB bank and the Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland. I would like to come back to Bonaire once I graduate and I hope to work in the educational field but I will consider other options also."



**William Piar (46) with his two sons Daniel (16) and Elijah (13)**

"I am here because I want to get more information on career opportunities for my two children. There is a lot of information available and there are many stands. I think it is a good fair, a good place to start occupation and study orientation."



**Victoria Cicilia (17) and Michael Vlietstra (33)**

"I am here for information on study financing (Victoria) as I plan to study chemistry in The Netherlands. I would have liked to get a more hands-on explanation on what to do to apply for study financing." ■

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# Downtown Halloween

Halloween celebrations on Bonaire continue to increase. In addition to the trick or treaters who roamed downtown on Halloween afternoon there was a big costume party with cash prizes at Cuba Compagnie.

Tante Corine's more than 50 kids were accompanied by amazed-looking parents and grandparents while Miss Anna's crèche (photo top right), Halloweening for the first time, had about 20 really little ones parading for the candy treats. ■ G.D.



"Tante" Corine Gerharts Tapiero continues to organize the event

Frankie and Ava escorted by teen helpers Mafer, Julia and Diane.

# Super Concert Coming

Do those of us living on Bonaire realize how very lucky we are when it comes to classical music concerts? The high level of artists who perform at the concerts put on by the Classical Music Board Bonaire (CMBB) is often worthy of a Carnegie Hall in New York, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam or the Opera House in San Francisco. And the cost at those halls isn't a mere \$25! Plus the added thrill of being right up there with the artists, nearly on stage with them can't be duplicated. Take advantage of this special opportunity and give yourself an evening of wonder and music, right in your own neighborhood.

The CMBB started out at the Plaza Hotel where all the first concerts were held, but the Plaza heads decided they no longer wanted them or their grand piano. So the concerts have been forced to relocate, but to even more interesting places, where the acoustics have been amazing: the SGB high school, the Coromoto Catholic Church in Antriol, and the next concert in the charming chapel of the hospital (Mariadal). The magnificent grand piano has become a traveler and thanks to an expert crew and Rocargo it can go where it is called.

On the 21st of November 2014 at 8 pm the Classical Music Board Bonaire will host its second concert of the season at the Chapel of the Fundashon Mariadal. The chapel has been used before and will be transformed into an intimate venue with a concert grand piano, palm trees and subtle lighting.

The well-known violinist Jeroen de Groot who performed on Bonaire last year as part of Bach Stress will be sharing the stage with the equally well-known pianist Bart van de Roer. They will perform a complete sonata by Ludwig van Beethoven and Edward Grieg as well as pieces by Brahms, Kreilser, Prokofiev, Chaminade and Waxman. The highlight will be Camille Saint Saens dramatic and virtuoso Rondo Capriccioso.

Seating is limited so get your tickets early website: [www.classicalmusicbonaire.com](http://www.classicalmusicbonaire.com). ■

L.D./ Press release

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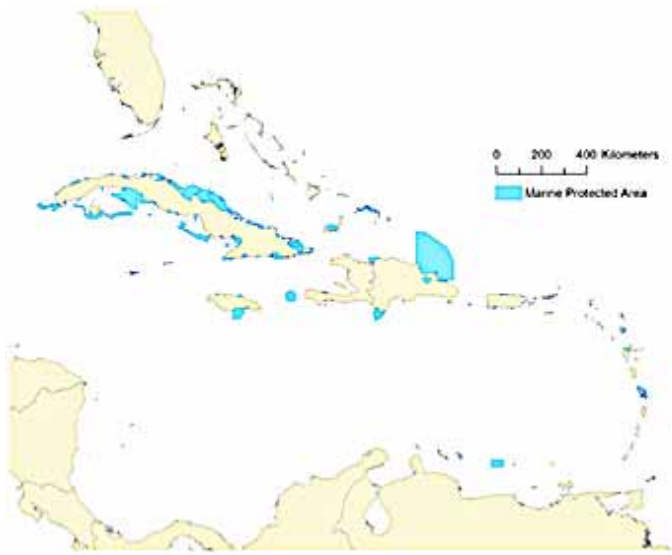
## DID YOU KNOW?

**How far fish travel?** Well, scientists and other planners of Marine Protected Areas are studying reef fish movements by using micro-chips. Scientists are using these chips to best place the areas of protection in the Caribbean. By using these chips the researchers see whether the fish are staying within the areas that are protected. Scientists have tracked 163 fish that travel an average distance of 3.8km. Some of the fish moved more than 1 kilometer, whereas other fish moved more than 10 kilometers in a day. Now because fish move a significant distance some are not in the protected area as much. However, by viewing and assessing this information scientists and those planning marine protected areas can manage where they should be located in order for fish to regain abundance. So just by adding chips to fish we are able to view how to protect them and make a classic meal.

■ **Everett Senetar**

Senetar is a Marine Biology student at University of Maine at Machias, Maine. He was a student during Summer 2014 at CIEE Research Station Bonaire

Reference [http://www.cepf.net/where\\_we\\_work/regions/caribbeanislands/ecosystem\\_profile/pages/](http://www.cepf.net/where_we_work/regions/caribbeanislands/ecosystem_profile/pages/)



## Free Wellness Day



Saturday, November 15, BONAIRE BASICS will organize a FREE wellness event with yoga, meditation, and more. All donations go to Pasku Briante, Christmas celebration for Bonaire's less advantaged children.

Everyone is welcome to view and/or experience! Participation is optional. at Kaya Korona 47, (across from Botica Korona)

### Schedule

- 07.00 am Meditation- Desiree
- 07.30 am Opening Chant & Sun Salutations- Ruby
- 08.00 am Yang / Yin Yoga- Jane
- 08.30 am Centered Yoga- Corien
- 09.00 am Vinyasa Yoga- Laura
- 09.30 am Pilates- Tina
- 10.00 am Sensible Yoga- Elisabetta
- 10.30 am Yoga/ Pilates- Ineke
- 11.00 am Kundalini- Jose
- 11.30 am Tai Chi- Ron
- 12.00 pm Qigong- Ron

07.00 – 13.00 pm Local wood carvings Don  
07.30 – 12.30 pm Reiki Francheska, Massages Annemiek, Tai Chi - Yoga - Massages Wijna ■ Press release

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only to be booked max. 2 weeks in advance / min. 3 days in advance.

Call \*(599) 785-6272 or email :

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**Reservations**  
**24 hours a day**  
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for Vegetarian Ayurvedic  
food ( Indian Food)**

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Kaya Korona 47  
**Lunch: Tue. to Fri 12pm to 2pm**  
**Reservations 700-5488**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**ENGLISH TUTOR -- Individualized, professional instruction** to improve your English conversation, writing and business-transaction skills from a certified and experienced college English instructor. **Call 780-4820**

**REAL ESTATE AND RENTALS**

**For rent 5 studios at Hato, Kaya Utrecht 25.** All included also use, wifi, gas, water, electricity, linen, furnished. 1/2 persons, or the house is for rent. \$459,565,520,650,750.per month. **796-2529 or 780-1433 during daylight.**

**For Rent: 4 Bedrooms/4 Bathrooms Un-Furnished house for rent in Belnem.** Big open space kitchen and 2 living rooms with high ceiling. Big garden with a nice porch. Appliances include: Dishwasher, Oven, Stove, double Door Fridge, Water-Heater, Aircos in all bedrooms. USD 1400- per month. Please call +5999-520-2992 or +599-796-5885 for more info or send email to [kjons-dot@sscinc.com](mailto:kjons-dot@sscinc.com)

**One person rooms for rent at Hato aan Zee:** [digitalis1956@hotmail.com/](mailto:digitalis1956@hotmail.com/)

**House for RENT:** 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms , 4 minutes walking to the ocean, Kaya Mississippi 1, Price: \$1000,00 **Tel: 717-8603 or 5999-526-9411**

**For RENT: Nice comfortable 2-bedroom apartment fully furnished.** Good location in quiet area at Punt Vierkant in Belnem. Garden, private entrance and parking spot. Long term \$780.00 per month. Including wireless internet + Cable TV. Deposit required. No pets. **Call 796-5530.**

**FOR SALE private property in Republiek** on Kaya Turkesa. 1.240 m2. **Tel. 795-9760.**

**Have you nice, brand-name clothes you no longer want? Consign them to Penny Lane and make \$\$\$.** See pg. 3

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

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 10	05:46 0.41 ft	09:11 0.37 ft	15:34 1.01 ft			6:31	18:07
Tue 11		00:13 -0.19 ft	06:28 0.46 ft	10:21 0.39 ft	16:20 0.95 ft	6:31	18:07
Wed 12		00:50 -0.16 ft	07:03 0.51 ft	11:27 0.40 ft	17:02 0.88 ft	6:32	18:07
Thu 13		01:22 -0.13 ft	07:34 0.55 ft	12:30 0.40 ft	17:43 0.81 ft	6:32	18:07
Fri 14	L Quarter	01:50 -0.09 ft	08:03 0.60 ft	13:31 0.39 ft	18:22 0.72 ft	6:32	18:07
Sat 15		02:15 -0.05 ft	08:31 0.66 ft	14:33 0.37 ft	19:01 0.63 ft	6:33	18:07
Sun 16		02:37 -0.01 ft	08:58 0.71 ft	15:38 0.34 ft	19:42 0.54 ft	6:33	18:07
Mon 17		02:57 0.04 ft	09:26 0.77 ft	16:46 0.29 ft	20:28 0.44 ft	6:34	18:07
Tue 18		03:14 0.08 ft	09:56 0.83 ft	17:57 0.23 ft	21:23 0.34 ft	6:34	18:07
Wed 19		03:28 0.12 ft	10:27 0.89 ft	19:08 0.16 ft	22:35 0.25 ft	6:34	18:07
Thu 20		03:37 0.15 ft	11:02 0.94 ft	20:12 0.08 ft		6:35	18:07
Fri 21	00:17 0.19 ft	03:39 0.17 ft	11:40 1.00 ft	21:06 -0.00 ft		6:35	18:07
Sat 22	12:22 1.04 ft	21:51 -0.07 ft			New Moon	6:36	18:07
Sun 23	13:08 1.07 ft	22:30 -0.13 ft				6:36	18:07
Mon 24	13:56 1.08 ft	23:05 -0.18 ft				6:37	18:07
Mon 10	05:46 0.41 ft	09:11 0.37 ft	15:34 1.01 ft			6:31	18:07

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**FOR SALE - 2002 MINI COOPER** Fun car. Very good condition. Low miles. Lots of extras. Regularly maintained and cared for. You'll love this cute car! \$10,000 **Call 717 7278**



**BOAT FOR SALE - 2009 Corsair Sprint 750** Trimaran Fastest sailboat in Bonaire. Includes Air-Dock system. \$50,000 **Email villablue25@gmail.com for specs.**

**Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter**

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# SHOPPING and SERVICE GUIDE

## AIRLINES

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

## APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

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



## AUTOMOBILE DEALER

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

## BANK

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

## BARS

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

## BEAUTY

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

## 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.

## HEALTH CARE

**Best Care Logistics** provides everything necessary for people who are disabled or sick, including prostheses, dietary supplements, furnishings, mobility equipment, diabetes aids, hospital beds, oxygen therapy, optical & hearing aids, contraceptives, home aids, communication, and more

## LIQUORS, WINES and MORE

**Best Cellars** has one of the island's widest selection of spirits including "hard-to-find" brands. In addition there is an exceptional assortment of wines, tobacco products and everything needed for a great party.

## 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

**ScubaVision**—Bonaire's creative above or underwater video and still photographer for the wedding or other important events in your life. See website scubavision.info or ScubaVision on YouTube. **NEW**— Drone photography

## 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.



**Bobbejans**— Bonaire's quintessential "rib joint" not only has some of the best ribs but tasty extras like Gado-Gado, pork chops and fries. Open Friday night and weekends only.

**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

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

**Dushi Shoes & Dive Friends Shops** — featuring Clarks, Guess, DC Shoes, Reefs — as well as Tee Shirts for men and women.

## 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/FITNESS

**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. Open all day and Saturday too. New location across from Warehouse



## TOP Supermarket—

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



## MADE ON BONAIRE

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

## 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)

# 15 Years of MBO

Providing Bonaire's Youngsters A Professional Education



MBO students sing a song made especially for the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Celebration was the order of the day at the **Middelbaar Beroeps Onderwijs (MBO) School** (vocational school) that is part of the **Scholen Gemeenschap Bonaire (SGB) (Community School)** of Bonaire last Friday, November 7.

The facility celebrated its 15th anniversary in style with cake, drinks, a handful of speeches and a lot of student participation. Various speakers, amongst them the chairman of the SGB board **Frans Lauxen**, the director of the SGB **Lydia A. Emerencia**, MBO pioneers **Rob van Lier** and **Marianne Grutters** and the director of the MBO **Joris Karman**, praised the founders, the students and the teachers of the MBO for the development of this important education institution on Bonaire.

This schooling system gives Bonairean youth a bright future in the island's professional market. All five speakers mentioned the rapid development of the MBO institution and the high level of education that withstood that quick expansion. From 13 students in 1999 to 523 today, with more than 36 courses to choose from and 47 fulltime employees, the MBO is an educational facility that enables Bonairean youth to enter the island's working world.

Lauxen emphasized the importance of the professional community of the island working together with the school as well as the value of a direct focus on talent development of the youth. Rob van Lier and Marianne Grutters, the "pioneers" of the MBO on Bonaire, mentioned the need for an MBO educational facility as teenagers would otherwise have to leave the island for Curaçao, Aruba or even The Netherlands when they are better off



A student explains to Director of the SGB Lydia A. Emerencia and other interested visitors about the various projects in their field.

staying at home with their parents. They explained that creating a successful MBO education on Bonaire for its youngsters has been a continuous pleasurable challenge. Karman added that by being the present director of the MBO facility he is realizing his dream: working for the development of Bonaire.

The students attended the event in full form, singing songs and showing visitors the various projects they are working on in a choice of diverse courses available at the MBO institution on Bonaire.

MBO Bonaire, here's to another 15 years (and more!) ■  
Story & photo by Sanny Ensing



## Preserving The Past



Project **Stormvogel**  
Saving Bonaire's Maritime Past

**S**tormvogel (Storm Bird), a stout, 45-foot wooden sailboat, was launched from the shores of the Dutch Caribbean island of Bonaire in the early 1950s. She joined an unofficial fleet of local cargo ships that served as the lifeline between the ABC Islands. These boats, called *balandras*, were essential for export. They hauled loads of salt, goatskins, aloe vera, and charcoal. They also delivered scarce goods to Bonaire like clothing, fuel and canned food. But perhaps most importantly, these reliable vessels united families and friends by transporting people, packages and post between the islands. *Stormvogel* and her sister ships were essential to Bonaire's well-being, economy, and culture.

Today, *Stormvogel* is the only remaining cargo ship left from those grand days of sail. She was the last of the sailing cargo boats built and, through the years, survived storms and hurricanes. Now the old cutter is facing her greatest challenge yet—decay.

Project Stormvogel is an effort to save the last vestige of this historic era.

Presently, the boat has been rescued from the water and is on dry dock in Curaçao. François van der Hoeven from the Curaçao Maritime Archeological Foundation is preparing the boat for transfer to Bonaire. Upon arrival, the old ship will be restored with historic accuracy to its former sailing glory at the Navegante Boatyard in Hato. Owner Lele Davidsson has generously offered a spot rent-free for the first year of the restoration. A group of experienced Bonairean shipwrights, led by boat man Johnny Craane, will volunteer their time and spearhead the effort. Plans are to involve youth from public schools and groups like Jong Bonaire and Junior Rangers so that they can learn boat-building skills, teamwork and maritime history.

Once complete, *Stormvogel* will become a maritime heritage center, eventually a floating one, where school kids, residents and tourists will learn about the nautical past of the ABC Islands. Volunteer guides will give on-deck tours. Maritime artifacts and multimedia displays will offer glimpses into the past below deck. But most importantly, the boat will serve as a cultural touchstone, a chance for the community to reconnect with this colorful era of its history. *Stormvogel* is the last chance to tell this important story. Other than a handful of historic photographs and a few aging sailors, this old boat is all that remains. We urge you to generously support this worthwhile project.

**Fundashon Patrimonio Marítimo Boneiru**  
**Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation**  
projectstormvogel@gamil.com

Spectacular setting for lunch and dinner

Try torch-lit dining on the beach



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Bonaire's most  
enchancing location!



The Harbour Village seaside La Balandra restaurant is open for  
Lunch & Dinner 7 days a week—Call for a reservation 717-7500

Think of Harbour Village for your special events, weddings, engagement parties & corporate events. Meeting rooms and catering available.

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email [labalandra@harbourvillage.com](mailto:labalandra@harbourvillage.com)

**Harbour Village Beach Club**

Phone # 717-7500

Kaya Gobernador N. Debrot 71  
Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean



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With Love  
On Bonaire**

In the local supermarket dairy case

Demand it in Local Restaurants

Help Make Bonaire Self-Sustaining

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

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## 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

• **Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market) First Saturday of the month**, at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am to 1pm.

• **Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei—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, at the eastern entrance to Rincon

• **Last Saturday of the month** – donate foods and household items to Food Bank (*Stichting voedselbank Bonaire*) from 9:30am-2pm in front of Van den Tweel Supermarket

• **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

• **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.

• **Kunuku Arawak** - Music, drinks, local food, dancing, 10 am—6 pm. Live music starts at 4 pm. Tel.786-7210

### Mondays

• **Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour—9 am**. Meet the goats, see milking, cheese making and more. **\$10 includes cheese tasting and tea, Kids \$5.** 786-6950- 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 the newest book *Reef Windows*. 5:30-7pm. Tel. 717-8290.

• **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 **every Monday when she's on-island** at 8 pm in the Aquarius Conference Center at Captain Don's Hab-

Cruise Ship Schedule					
Day	Date	Ship Name	Time In	# PAX	Line
Monday	10-11	Zuiderdam	14.00-23.00	1920	HAL
Monday	10-11	Mein Schiff 1	07.00-19.00	2114	TUI CRUISES
Tuesday	11-11	Explorer of the Seas	08.00-17.00	3114	RCCL
Wednesday	12-11	Aida Luna	07.00-18.00	2194	Aida Cruises
Friday	14-11	Star Flyer	12.00-20.00	170	Star Cruises
Saturday	15-11	Seabourn Legend	08.00-18.00	208	HAL
Tuesday	18-11	Ventura	08.00-18.00	3080	P&O Cruises
Wednesday	19-11	Explorer of the Seas	08.00-17.00	3114	RCCL
Monday	24-11	Mein Schiff 1	07.00-19.00	2114	TUI CRUISES

tat, Call Habitat at 717-8290 or Dee at 717-8529 .

### Wednesdays

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

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

• **Divemaster's Night at Bistro de Paris Restaurant at Harbour Village Marina**. Free house rum when you buy a coke.

• **Echo Parrot (Lora) Foundation** tours of their Dos Pos Conservation Centre, giving an insight into Echo's work. Led by local guides who are eager to share their knowledge of Bonaire and are donation based. Meet at the Dos Pos windmill before 430 pm and bring good shoes as it's "off road." Also private tours through Flow Bonaire [info@flowbonaire.com](mailto:info@flowbonaire.com) Phone: +599 788 4636.

• **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)

### Fridays

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

## 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

**Chichi i Tan Museum**. Step into the past—a typical old Bonairean home, furnishings and garden. **Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays**. 10am-3pm. **1st Sunday of month**, live performances of local musicians, arts & crafts. Free but donations appreciated. **Kaya Melon #4, behind Rose Inn in Rincon. 786-6420/78-7842**

**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. 717-4200or788-2819 or [peejeesee@gmail.com](mailto:peejeesee@gmail.com)

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

## CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

**International Bible Church**, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. 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](mailto:bonaireibc@yahoo.com)

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

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

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

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

## CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Cruise Ship season is here. See schedule at left.

**Saturday November 15 — Dia di BONAIRE BASICS** Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47 (across from Botica Korona) .

See story on page 12

**Friday, November 21— Classical Music Concert** –see page 11

**Saturday, November 22 —Santa Arives** via boat at Wilhelmina Plaza at 2 pm



**Sunday November 30 —**

**-FUN Walk & Bike**, Jeugdhuis Jong Bonaire.

**-35th Anniversary Marine Park Lion Fish Derby** Malicious & Delicious Noon-6 pm at Sunset Beach

More info on both events in the next edition

Contact: 786-2557.

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

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

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

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

Let us know if you have something "Happening" you want published

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





# THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen  
November 2014

**ARIES** (Mar. 21- April 20) Extend an invitation to clients you enjoy spending time with. Take matters in hand when it comes to dealing with clients or colleagues. This will not be the best day to sign deals or to take care of other people's financial matters. New hair, new outfit, new you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21- May 21) You will be tempted to shop till you drop. You must not make unnecessary changes this month. Find out exactly what's expected of you and you'll be surprised to find out how capable you are. Changes in your residence will be favorable in the long haul. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) You should consider getting into self-improvement endeavors. Try to iron out any friction over money with your mate or conflicts could prevail. Don't cause a scene, but when you get home let your partner know how you feel and why. You may be emotional if you allow your lover to take advantage of your good nature. Your luckiest events will occur on a Friday.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Don't draw too much attention to yourself at work. Plan a trip to the country or take a drive to the beach. You will be moody and react poorly to issues concerning your mate. Your sensitive nature will allow others to read you well. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) Be innovative. Make plans to mix business with pleasure. Dinner with clients or business associates should be successful. Don't be afraid to say what's on your mind. Your energy must be directed into productive goals, or frustrations will occur. Your luckiest events will be on a Saturday.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You have two choices; Get out on your own, or bend to your mate's whims. Your health may suffer if you don't control your present situation. Consider a conservative investment that will stay solid when everything else goes sour. Your ability to be

a self starter will help get things done and motivate others. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Help elders get their personal papers in order. Get involved in competitive sports. Friends will appreciate your attention and playful nature. Offer consolation, but don't give them any direction. You can help them more than they can help you. Your luckiest events will occur on a Thursday.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Reevaluate your situation. You will be able to pick up on future trends if you keep your eyes peeled for unique ideas. Compromise will be necessary. Digestive disorders will be a result of family squabbles. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You can make excellent investments if you are in the right place at the right time. You will have good ideas for home improvement projects. Too much talk will lead to disputes. Family members will not be happy with the amount of time you are spending away from home. Your luckiest events will be on a Friday.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Organize social events or family gatherings. Take time to help a friend who hasn't been feeling well. Expect some flak. Put your time and energy into travel, philosophy, and soul-searching. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Overindulgence will be a problem if you are out in a social setting. Romance will be yours if you get out and do things in large groups. Get promises in writing or you will be disappointed. Try to keep to yourself; work diligently on domestic chores and responsibilities. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Things are looking up. Don't be too quick to blame others for your bad mood. You can meet a new romantic partner or secure the love connection you already have by going out and entertaining yourself. You should be promoting your ideas. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday. ■

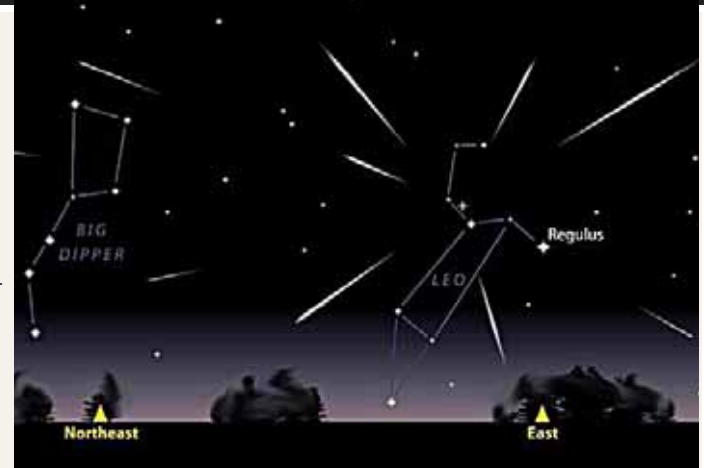


## BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it... just look up

### NOVEMBER METEOR SHOWERS

The early November meteor showers were mostly drowned in bright moonlight. Still, you might see a meteor from the **North Taurid meteor shower** streaking along in the light of the **Moon** in the early part of the month. By mid-November the Moon will be mostly out of the way for the annual **Leonid meteor shower**. Keep reading to learn about November's meteor showers.



#### Late night November 11 until dawn November 12, 2014 - the North Taurids

Like the **South Taurids**, the North Taurids meteor shower is long-lasting (October 12 – December 2) but modest, and the peak number is forecast at about 7 meteors per hour. The North and South Taurids combine, however, to provide a nice sprinkling of meteors throughout October and November. Typically, you see the maximum numbers at around midnight, when **Taurus the Bull** is highest in the sky. Taurid meteors tend to be slow-moving, but sometimes very bright. In 2014, a bright **waning gibbous Moon** will bleach out all but the brighter meteors during the late evening and wee morning hours. But try watching before moonrise on the evening of November 11, and even after the Moon rises, you still might catch some bright meteors in the wee morning hours of November 12.

#### Late night November 17 until dawn November 18, 2014 - the Leonids

Radiating from the **constellation Leo the Lion**, the famous Leonid meteor shower has produced some of the

greatest meteor storms in history – at least one in living memory, 1966 – with rates as high as thousands of meteors per minute during a span of 15 minutes on the morning of November 17, 1966. Indeed, on that beautiful night in 1966, the meteors did, briefly, fall like rain. Some who witnessed the 1966 Leonid meteor storm said they felt as if they needed to grip the ground, so strong was the impression of **Earth** plowing along through space, fording the meteoroid stream. The meteors, after all, were all streaming from a single point in the sky – **the radiant point** – in this case in the **constellation Leo the Lion**. Leonid meteor storms sometimes recur in cycles of 33 to 34 years, but the Leonids around the turn of the century – while wonderful for many observers – did not match the shower of 1966. And, in most years, the Lion whimpers rather than roars, producing a maximum of perhaps 10-15 meteors per hour on a dark night. Like many meteor showers, the Leonids ordinarily pick up steam after midnight and display the greatest meteor numbers just before dawn. In 2014, the waning crescent moon shouldn't too greatly interfere with this year's Leonid meteor shower. **The peak morning will probably be November 18 – but try November 17, too.** ■ *Dean Regas & James Albury*



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# Pet of the Week

# Shelter News

**B**onaire Animal Shelter volunteer, Edelman poses with stunning white dogs, Jip and Janneke (named after the subjects of a Dutch children's book). The pups are playful and happy, taken well care of before their owners had to move to Curacao and give up the dogs. Both are all white with subtle black Dalmatian like spots and have sleek, easy-to-care for fur. They're three and seven months old but look like a matched pair. Edelman is a student at Papa Cornes school and has been a volunteer at the Shelter twice a week for the last six months. He's responsible, serious, a real asset and the pets love him. You may visit the Shelter on the Lagoon Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9am-1pm, 3-5pm. Tel. 717-4989. WWWBonaireAnimalShelter.com. Facebook and Twitter too.



Edelman with Jip and Janneke

tions of handcrafts, Christmas ornaments, books, clothing, furniture. Call the Shelter if you need to have items picked up-717-4989.

**Puppies Galore**—good opportunity to pick and choose from a healthy, happy crowd of puppies right now. ■ *Story & photo by Laura DeSalvo*

## MORE SHELTER NEWS

**The Shelter Christmas Fair and Flea Market, Saturday, December 13, 10am-5pm at the Shelter.** They can use dona-

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Effie (at right) and her assistant, Princess

## EFFIE, THE SHELTER DOG

**We** want you to meet Effie. She is the first point of contact for the Animal Shelter Bonaire.

Effie was brought years ago to the Shelter, adopted, and brought back again. The Shelter people loved her and at that time we needed a receptionist. We thought that Effie would be the right dog for this job. Someone who gives all the visitors a warm welcome and shows them around. Effie has all those qualities. She is very responsible for various duties that help support and ensure that the Shelter operates in a friendly, professional and efficient manner. She also has the ability to communicate with various animals and

human beings at various different levels, she has a good sense of humor and most importantly, she looks great!

Effie been doing this job for a couple of years now she's the best receptionist there is.

Every day between 8-1 and 3-5 there's a meet and greet with Effie. Except on Sundays. On Sundays Effie has day off from her work! You can see pictures of Effie on her job on <http://www.facebook.com/AnimalShelterBonaire>.

■ *Story & photo by Marlies Tiepel*



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# More Lost Restaurants

The article in the last issue of *The Reporter* (“Risky Business” – Restaurant Nostalgia – Where Have All the Restaurants Gone?”) has brought in new information from readers with long memories. In addition to the 51 restaurants we listed that have closed in the last 21 years, our readers added: **Raffles (on the site of Blue Moon) Bravo, Bon Piska, Capt. Wook’s, Vespucci, Blue Mekong,**



Salsa being dismantled. A hotel will replace it.



Kon Tiki Restaurant may return after renovations

Faucets at Habitat, Super Corner, Flamboyant, La Barca, Kon Tiki, Salsa, Bella Vista,

Banana Tree at Plaza, L’Amuse and Bambu, making a total of 67 restaurants that were open in the last 21 years and have since closed.-more than three per year. ■ L.D.

# Foster Family Appreciation Day

On Sunday, the 2nd of November, *Jeugzorg en Gezinsvoogdij Caribisch Nederland* (Youth Care and Family Guardianship) organized another successful “Foster family appreciation day.”

This is the fourth year in a row that this special day has been organized to empower and thank the amazing foster parents for caring for our foster children on Bonaire.



There are about 60 foster families on the island who have opened up their homes and hearts to children who can’t live with their own parents for different reasons.

The event took place at the local ‘Parke Publiko’ where the families enjoyed an afternoon filled with different activities.

The main activity consisted of the families working together to make a family painting, which they could take home afterwards. After this, the foster families joined up for the special foster family photo. All of the activities were accompanied by some nice music, cold drinks and delicious food.

In the late afternoon the kids took advantage of playing together at the playground, while the foster parents got the chance to chat and

exchange experiences.

The occasion also provided for siblings, who live with different families, to spend time together.

Foster care on Bonaire educates, empowers and supports the foster families in different ways: by offering courses, giving guidance at home and organizing different activities.

**There is still a great need for more foster families on the island, to welcome kids into their homes for short or longer periods of time. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent or would like some more information, you can contact Jeugdzorg en Gezinsvoogdij Caribisch Nederland at 715-7201 or [info.jeugdzorgcn@jeugdzorgcn.com](mailto:info.jeugdzorgcn@jeugdzorgcn.com).** ■ Press release

## Barracuda Winners

Bonaire has once again shown that our small island has great swimmers. Although the Bonaire Barracuda swim team has no opportunity to train in a lap pool it still managed to hold its own among the larger swimming teams from Curaçao, Aruba and the US. The Barracudas came back with one gold, six silver and three bronze medals. Some of their swimmers have qualified for the Pan American Masters Championships in Medellin, Colombia (17- 27 June 2015), and the World Masters Championships in Kazan, Russia (9-16 August 2015). In addition, there is also a CARIFTA participation in sight. Bonaire can be justifiably proud of its swimmers and swim team. ■ Press release



Swimmers - Back row; Simone Sweets, Brandon Begina, Anita Smits, Nathalie Petersen, Kaile Finies, Tirzah Richards, Nikolai Pedersen, Jennefer Petersen (head coach)  
Front row; Chaz Sweets, Pien Goutziers, Chenice Bergman Oosterlee, Marcel Spruit, Cai Crielaard, Basi Shoot



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