

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE December 8-22, 2014 -Year 21, Issue 24
The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 786-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com Since 1994



Mangazina di Rei
See Page 10

Mangazina di Rei founder and president for many years, Edith Strauss-Marsera (2nd from right), husband Rob Strauss (left), and current managers, Danilo Christiaan and Heleen Christiaan-Quartel

Laura DeSalvo photo



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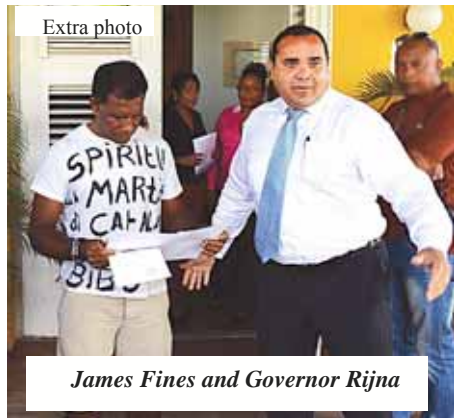
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The Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament on Thursday evening adopted the motion of the Christian Union (CU) and the Labour Party (PvdA) to introduce an allowance \$456 per year per child to help for families with children in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba after January 1, 2016. Families will be receiving \$38 per child per month as of that date.

Currently that amount is deductible from income tax. However poor people don't pay income tax because their income is too low to require it. Therefore the measure will help to alleviate poverty for those families living below the poverty level. However, the "child payment - *kinderbijslag* - is about three times higher (\$112.30 for teens; a bit less for younger children) in the European Netherlands. Do Dutch legislators think it costs three times less to support a child in Bonaire?

Despite the fear of Bonaire's UPB ruling party that it will create "bad blood," the opposition PHU party announced that it will file a lawsuit on behalf of the Bonaire Government itself to petition the Court to instruct Holland to pay the child benefit allowance at the European Dutch level to the people of Bonaire.



James Finies and Governor Rijna

► James Finies' *Nos Kier Boneiru Bèk* (We Want Bonaire Back) group,

which desires a constitutional referendum and greater independence for Bonaire, disregarded a 48-hour deadline by Bonaire's Island Governor Edison Rijna forbidding a dramatic, slavery-focused demonstration to be at the island's executive offices. Governor Edison Rijna did not make good on his threat to forcefully move Thursday's peaceful demonstration which attracted a number of supporters and the press. Instead the Governor said he preferred to continue a dialogue with the protest leader.

► In line with the recent drop in crude oil the price of petroleum products in Bonaire has dropped. Prices are:

Gasoline	\$1.22 /liter
Diesel	\$0.864/liter
Kerosene	\$0.80 / liter
LPG 100#	\$39 /tank
LPG 20#	\$ 9 /tank

For comparison with US units, \$1.22 /liter is \$4.65/gallon.

► How is Bonaire doing economically? Some results from the 2012 (latest available) research by the Dutch government's statistical bureau show:

The gross domestic product (GDP) of Bonaire in 2012 was USD 372 million.

- Consumer spending (by households and the government together) accounts for USD 310 million of this amount. The main items of household expenditure are: food (21% of household expenditure) and rent, electricity and gas (also 21%).
- Gross investments in 2012 amounted to USD 86 million.
- The total export of goods and services was USD 181 million. The import of goods and services amounted to USD 205 million.

► On March 1st, 2015, Ramón de León, the Manager of the Bonaire Marine Park for 10 years, will step down to pursue



other nature conservation activities on Bonaire. A successor has not been named.



Rotary Club of Bonaire board members André Lendering and Herbert Domacassé hand over the donation check to members of the board of Stichting Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds cancer society.

► On Monday, October 27, board members of the Rotary Club of Bonaire visited the Princess Wilhelmina Cancer Fund office to present a donation acknowledging October Breast Cancer month. *Wilhelminafonds* gives guidance and support to cancer patients and their families, and also works to create awareness about this disease.

► Budget Marine is having a raffle for great valuable prizes. Each month a drawing will be held from the subscribers to the newsletter. All you need to do to participate is sign up for the Bonaire newsletter



on www.budgetmarine.com. The prize for December is a Joi light which is a beautiful LED lantern (photo above) where the LEDs are powered by the heat of a tea candle!

January will be a Bluetooth waterproof speaker. In the following months, they continue with binoculars, a walkie-talkie set, Leatherman, mask fins and snorkel set, cooler and cooler tote bag, a pair of VHF radios, a hand held GPS and then finally at the end of Regatta at the Budget Marine Wahoo Tournament the grand prize of a Stand Up Paddle board will be drawn. All you need to do to participate is join the newsletter! Can't wait, or need a cool Christmas present? All of these items are available at Budget Marine. See the ad on pg. 6.

► One of the nicest things to have for your home or give as a gift this Christmas season is a plant, especially if it's a poinsettia. Green Label is receiving fresh plants by air every week. Pass by and check them out.

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Available on-line at:

www.bonairereporter.com

Printed Every Fortnight,

On-line every day, 24/7

Next edition printing on

Sunday, December 21, 2014

Story and Ad deadline:

Friday, December 19, 2014

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Contin. from pg. 2)

► **Outfit yourself and your friends with name-brand clothes at a fraction of their original prices this holiday season.** The Penny Lane Exchange on the 2nd floor above Botika Bonaire downtown on Kaya Grandi has a wide selection of fashionable ladies', men's and children's clothes to choose from. Classic children's toys by Melissa and Doug for sale too. See the ad on page 12.



► Over 30 people were interviewed for a 48-minute program about the **life and work of Hugo Gerharts**, (above) who led dozens of Bonaire companies in the last quarter of the 20th century. The production, by TV-Carib, a company of the Obersi Group headed by Alvin Obersi, produced the program and is available on DVD with a trailer accessible on Facebook and other

► **On Sunday, December 21st, Dive Friends Bonaire will organize a huge dive gear market from 10am-3pm at Hamlet Oasis.** Everyone is welcome to shop or to sell.

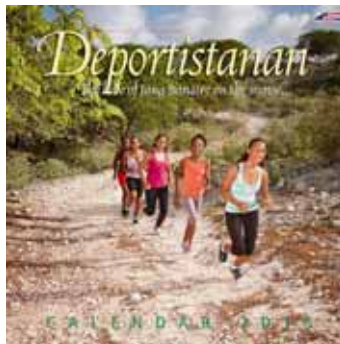
Robert, manager of the Hamlet Oasis location of Dive Friends Bonaire, says, "As far as I know this is the first time we've organized a dive gear market like this. All individuals are welcome! Please come if you want to sell your used dive gear or if you want to buy new or used dive gear. During this event the filling station, the shop and the bar will be open as usual. My Hamlet Oasis team- Fialka, Alexandra and Kevin - is very enthusiastic about this happening. We will erect a huge white tent and install a bunch of tables to show the gear." Robert continues: "This definitely will be fun: plenty of space, a nice environment, opportunities to dive from the site, drinks available. I've known for years that divers are friendly people. They just want to share their belongings and experiences. To be honest, I am proud I am allowed to organize this market with my loyal crew!"

Call 717-2524 or mail hamlet@dive-friends-bonaire.com



sources like <http://www.bonaire.nu/2014/12/05/documentaire-over-mr-bonaire/>. Obersi said much of his own commercial success was inspired by Gerharts, referred to as "Mr. Bonaire" by Bonaire's windsurfing pioneer, Elvis Martinus.

► **If you don't find a copy of The Reporter at the checkout counter of your favorite supermarket, ask where they have been put.** ■ G./L.D.



► **A perfect Bonaire gift: The Jong Bonaire 2015 Calendar** At stores and markets.

THE HAGUE--

The First Chamber of the Dutch Parliament is questioning the **planned cutbacks in the health care insurance package** for Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba (BES islands).

It's feared that the restrictions on the covering of physical therapy by the health care insurance would hurt the islands' residents, especially those with a low income. Parliament has promised to further analyze these cuts which mainly affect physical therapy and dental care.

As of January 1, 2015, the only physical therapy covered will be for rehabilitation purposes, physical therapy for youngsters up to the age of 18, youngsters with a chronic illness and physical therapy for the pelvis in case of bladder incontinence. A maximum has been set for most of these categories. Adults with a chronic disease have to pay the first 20 treatments themselves after which the insurance will cover the rest. All other physical therapy treatment will have to be paid out of pocket. Medical insurance to cover the deleted items is not available in the BES Islands as it is in the European Netherlands.

Parliamentarians believe there is a real risk that **physical therapy would disappear on the islands as there would not be enough work for a viable business and to provide visiting therapists.**

The Health Ministry denied this, saying that rehabilitation physical therapy would remain available at the hospitals on all three islands. "However, **the cut backs will have counter-productive consequences,**" said Member of Parliament Quik-Schuijt. "In the end it will only cost more money, savings will be undone because it will cause other problems. People who can't get proper health care will be unfit to work for a longer period."

Quik-Schuijt said she was also keen to hear from the Ministry about the effects of the revised package on dental care and to get an update on the dental clean-up that started a few years ago to get rid of people's backlog in dental care. ■

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On The Island Since... 2006 - Bas and Ellie Noij

“When I set foot on Bonairean ground I fell in love with the place, head over heels,” says Bas Noij. “It was 2003 and we’d come here for a vacation. In Holland both of us had very busy jobs. I had an IT company and at a certain moment I was tired of the hectic lifestyle and very irritated with the ‘agenda-culture’. So we decided to put everything aside, quit the jobs. Then we went on a trip around the world for two and a half years. It was 2004.

The first one and a half years were spent in Africa. In 1994 I had done an internship in Uganda while I was studying environmental science and I’d fallen flat for Africa. From then on it had always been a dream of mine to travel through the continent in a four-wheel drive.

We bought an old Land Cruiser from the Red Cross and had it converted in Germany to fit our trip through Africa. Then we took off. After a couple of months it became clear to us that we didn’t want to go back to Holland. We made a list of countries that would be an option for us to live after the trip and Bonaire was number one.

We were interested in a place with a quiet pace of life, a warm climate, and as we wanted children, it also had to be safe and enjoyable for children. But in the end, the deciding factor was this feeling I had for Bonaire, although Ellie worried a bit about the island being too small. Then, in 2005, we sold our house in Holland and one day later we bought the house on Bonaire.

We were still travelling through Africa. From there we went on to Australia for six months, then for another six months all over the place. We flew back to Holland, put all our stuff in a container and sent it to Bonaire. It felt very exciting to immigrate! Then we took the KLM night flight to Bonaire. We arrived in the middle of the night at 3.15am and walking from the plane to immigration we had a lump in our throats and tears in our eyes. Both of us had the feeling ‘it was meant to be’.

We didn’t have a job, but we had the house and an open mind. So I started working as a waiter and Ellie became a kayak guide in the mangroves with Elly Albers. Then Ellie applied for a job with DROB to see if she could get work in her own field, environmental and spatial planning, and after six months she got the job.”

“It was nice to have a real job,” Ellie says. “I was very lucky. I became policy advisor and I’m still doing it, more than seven years already. Only now, since we have the children, I’m working part-time, three days a week, which is a perfect balance because if you work less you miss too much and you’re out of it. It’s a varied job. We prepared the first zoning plan for Bonaire and two days before 10-10-10 it was accepted by the Is-



Bas and Ellie Noij and their children Mayra and Yali

land Council. Then we hired an urban planning consultancy. With their knowledge and experience and with all the local authorities (officials, directors/administrators, entrepreneurs and local architects) we drew up the downtown development plan for Kralendijk. As well as these big projects we are also involved in major construction projects: the new lampposts in downtown Kralendijk, the benches at Wilhelmina Park and in Kaya Grandi, and of course many requests from private individuals. In

four people max – and a lot of personal attention. The result was that we got plenty of positive reviews from our clients on the internet – Bonaire Talk and Scuba Board and soon after on TripAdvisor, which has been – and still is – very important to us. There we’ve been the Number 1 dive school on Bonaire continuously since 2009, and for four years in a row we’ve won the TripAdvisor’s Certificate of Excellence Award.

At the moment we have seven instructors and two temporary dive

“...I am confident about the future. I think more and more people are looking for something special and Bonaire has it”

short: It’s a great job!”

“I didn’t last very long as a waiter,” Bas laughs. “I was a fanatic diver and I went diving with every Tom, Dick and Harry. It turned out to be so much fun that I did my dive master’s training in 2007 and started working as a dive guide for a dive school. By the end of 2007 I’d also completed my instructor’s training and became an instructor. In 2009 I set up my own diving school, VIP Diving.

It grew very slowly. My partner, Michiel Rumpff, and I made the decision to focus on small groups –

masters working for us, and we’ve slowly become a serious player in the dive business. Our secret? We are the ‘dive butlers,’ and our motto is ‘Dive like a VIP!’ We offer people a full day. Our instructors are also island guides. Not only do we take our clients under water, but we also guide them over land, introducing them to the island’s nature, culture and history. We take them for lunch to local restaurants like Maiky’s Snack. We’re doing our utmost best to give them a VIP treatment. When you read the comments on TripAd-



Michiel Rumpff and Bas Noij (the Dive Butlers) won repeated Certificate of Excellence Awards from TripAdvisor

visor it shows that we’re successful at it.

This month, in the second half of December, we’re opening a completely new location at J.A. Abraham Boulevard 77, across from the Plaza parking lot. Everything is new: new compressors, new gear, new tanks, a brand new swimming pool and new cars, everything! It’s quite an adventure because we used to be the owners but now the bank has joined in.

I am confident about the future. I think more and more people are looking for something special and Bonaire has it - a very special atmosphere, the best protected reefs of all Caribbean islands and then there’s our most personal VIP approach.

Our dive school is also very actively involved in Lionfish control. We’re giving courses in Lionfish hunting and we’re helping the Sea Turtle Conservation with selling their items and by volunteering for them. Two thirds of the clients we get – and many of them are repeat guests – come from North America, and one third comes from Europe. We don’t have our own accommodation, but we are working together with owners of apartments and villas. It’s an extra service to our guests. We’re not financially involved.

I still try to go out diving with guests at least once a week, but it isn’t easy now that we have a new shop. However, it’s a logical consequence of what has happened to the business and of course there’s family life as well.”

“Our elder daughter Mayra was born on February 6th, 2010, and our younger one, Yali, on May 31st, 2012,” Ellie says. “They were both born at the hospital here. During the first delivery Dr. Dick van der Vaart was our coach and in spite of the pain we had a wonderful time! However, when Yali was born we came so early that we had to put on the lights and the air-conditioning

in the delivery room ourselves,” she laughs. “Luckily we knew where the room was because there was nobody else there. The night nurse left and told us, ‘Call me if you need me.’ Fortunately she was a neonatal nurse from Holland because Yali was born before the midwife arrived. It was nobody’s fault because we had no clue it would go so fast.

Well, we have two healthy children and what more is there to ask for. Mayra is at Pelican School and both of them are going to crèche with Juffrouw Ana (de Lima). They both speak Papiamentu, just like mama. Bas is not so good at it, but then he doesn’t need it so much at work.

For children to grow up Bonaire is just the perfect place. You know, in the very beginning when Bas and I started talking about leaving Holland I was a bit doubtful as to whether Bonaire would be the right choice. I had to get used to the idea that it was far away from family and friends in Holland. And another condition of mine was that my church had to be here because since I was 19 I’ve been a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Mormons. Well, I found my church here and I am happy with our decision. Bonaire may be small but when you’re working and you have a family with children you don’t feel it so much.

Only recently I climbed Mt. Brandaris – after having been here for seven years! Our plan is to stay here and we’ll see what happens 10 years from now. It’s far in the future and right now we’re enjoying the present.” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra





A Cake For Everyone

LUISA'S SWEET MASTERPIECES

Twenty-one years ago Luisa and Asdrubal Marcano came from Venezuela to Bonaire. The first three weeks the couple stayed at Hotel Rochaline and when a friend of Luisa's celebrated her birthday, Luisa made her a pie of prunes and a cheesecake. Immediately Luisa was asked to make the desserts for 'Lisboa,' Hotel Rochaline's restaurant.

From there it went fast and she started making desserts for restaurants: Rendez-Vous, Croccantino, and Richard's. While her husband was running his successful construction company, Luisa enjoyed her hobby, because that's what it was. Her education had been in business administration.

After the couple had their sons, Asdrubal Daniel and Luis Anibal, Luisa stopped working for a while to concentrate on the children. But when the boys grew older she opened Seahorse Cyber Café at Kaya Grandi 6 which she ran for four years.

About five years ago Luisa began to make cakes. Now, both her sons, who are 18 and 16, are studying in Florida and Luisa decided to turn her hobby into a business: 'Luisa Cake.'

"She is a natural artist," husband Asdrubal smiles proudly. "She's the wizard, but I do help her with the decorations which are made of fondant. It takes two persons 12-15 hours to complete them. Can you imagine? Just the decorations, not the cake!"

"We make them the way people like them," Luisa says. "Many people come with their own ideas. Then we discuss the options, or I just make it the way they want it. Everything is possible: all shapes and forms, with fondant or without, with fruits and chocolate, or just strawberry-chocolate, vanilla, butter cream and caramel, Chantilly, coco, all cheesecakes, kitkat and fruits and chocolate cream, queso. Or red velvet filled with cream cheese and torta de Arequipe and cakes with mousse of passion fruit, strawberry and chocolate. But I also make a whole variety of cupcakes, cookies, brownies, lollipops, fruit arrangements and local cakes like *Bolo di Kachupètè* and *Bolo Pretu*. We make cakes for kids and adults, for weddings and birthdays and births and baptisms and for the special 15th birthdays. I make the original *Tortas de Navidad*, the Christmas cakes with lots of liquor and candied fruit, the *Pan de Jamon*, a Venezuelan Christmas bread and I still make *Dulce de Leches* and desserts.

Last week we made an eight-kilo cake and the other day one of one meter. It's all about what the client wants. Prices depend on the ingredients, the decorations, the size and the taste, but... there is a cake for everyone.

People need to order at least four days ahead. They can message me through my Facebook page, Luisa Cake, or mail me luisabm1967@telbonet.an or phone me 700-1370 or 717-7629. ■ *Story & photo by Greta Kooistra*

Picture Yourself With The Reporter in London, England

Bonaire part-time resident, Mel McCombie, sent us this photo from London where she was celebrating her 60th birthday. Mel and her husband are known in Bonaire for their philanthropy and support for the endangered Loras.

This view with *The Reporter* is from her hotel in the Shard, with Houses of Parliament in the background. ■

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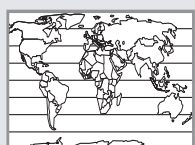
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8		9	4	3	6			
	1	5		2	9			
	7			1	4			
		5			8	7		
	1			2				
9	4	2						
		8	9	5				
	6					5	3	

Sudoku Solution

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

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF THE BONAIRE NATIONAL MARINE PARK



On Sunday, November 30th, STINAPA celebrated the 35th anniversary of the Bonaire Marine Park with a big party at Sunset Beach from noon till 6. There was music during the day, as well as stands with activities for kids and information for adults.

Preparation for the party started on Saturday, the 29th, with Lionfish hunting. A total of 11 teams were hunting Lionfish which they brought in to the STINAPA station to be measured and counted before being turned over to the Rum Runners kitchen. There the fish were de-finned, cleaned and filleted and handed over to the Bonaire Culinary Team, who made tasty Lionfish ceviche, Lionfish soup and deep fried Lionfish. They also served several goat dishes.

There were fabulous prizes avail-



Participants in the Malicious Delicious Beach Party

able for teams of hunters and also for individuals in various categories. There were prizes available for the team with the most original name, the biggest average fish, the most fish, and the least fish. Prizes for the individuals were for the biggest and the smallest fish.

Lt. Governor Edison Rijna also attended the party and expressed his congratulations for the 35th anniversary and remarked that if it wasn't for the Bonaire National Marine Parks rules and regulation, Bonaire wouldn't be in the world's top 5 diving destinations. Ramon de Leon, Marine Park Manager, thanked Mr. Rijna for his kind words and told the audience that a few weeks ago Mr. Rijna expressed



The cooks of the day

the wish to learn to hunt Lionfish. Ramon said: "You want to learn to hunt Lionfish? Well, let's help you along and start with giving you the correct tools: a zookeeper and an ELF (lionfish elimination device)."

Governor Rijna was pleasantly surprised with the gift.

After this Ramon proceeded to hand out the awards to the Lionfish hunters. The team with the most original name: **W.T.F. (Wack The Fsh)** received dive knives. The team with the most Lionfish (265) was **Kilo Knallers**. They received a regulator. Kilo Knallers was also the team with the biggest average sized fish (41.22cm). For this they were awarded dive computers. The **Tjerk Offs** were the team with the smallest average (11.1 cm). **Team Lac** was the team with the least fish (7). After this **Cindy Jensen** was awarded a zookeeper for the biggest Lionfish caught (43.4cm) and **Sabine Engel** was awarded a zookeeper for the smallest Lionfish caught (8.8cm).

There were sponsored prizes that were raffled among the general public: from weekend stays at different hotels on the island to dinners for two or four people, snorkel and masks, and complimentary car from Budget Rent-a-Car for five days in Bonaire or Curacao.

Sponsors for the event were: Bonaire Culinary Team, Tourism Corporation Bonaire, CIEE Research Station, Rum Runners, Amcar, Rocargo, Budget Car Rental, Bonaire Food Group, Cressi, Den Laman, Sand Dollar, Coral Reef Foundation, Spice Beach Club, WWF, Selibon, Divi Flamingo, BOPEC, Zookeepers, Caribe Watersports Bonaire, Divi Dive Flamingo & Toucan Diving.

Press release

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Our Visitors Honored



Kevin and Cindy Beeton, 11 years; Paul and Leah Bell, 11 years; with TCB's Helen Thode



Patrick and Della Edrington, 10 years, with TCB's Angelo Domacasse



Todd Wasowich-10 years

The Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) recognizes visitors that have been visiting Bonaire year after year by making them unofficial Bonaire Ambassadors. Bonaire has an average of 40% repeat visitors. The Bonaire Ambassador program was created over a decade ago with the purpose of recognizing the island's loyal visitors with an official certificate and ambassador

medal. With this recognition visitors become "Bonaire Ambassadors." Ambassadors are awarded a bronze, silver or gold medal (depending how many years they have visited Bonaire) to show how special they are to the island. Recently seven more Ambassadors were named— photos above.

In general they said they especially enjoyed Bonaire's climate and ambiance, the underwater world and the freedom to explore the island. Angelo Domacasse and Helen Thode of TCB presented the medals and certificates. For more information contact Helen Thode at helenthode@tourismbonaire.com ■ Press release

DID YOU KNOW?

Alien soft corals are invading eastern Venezuelan coral communities? Move over Lionfish. You are not the newest invasive species on the block anymore! A type of soft coral in the Xenidae family usually found in reefs surrounding Oceania, southern Asia, and eastern Africa, was first spotted in 2007 in Valle Seco (northeastern Venezuela, about 200km east of Caracas). In the seven years since, the species has colonized several kilometers away to Conoma Bay and Mono Island in



Venezuela, only to have its growth hindered during the rainy season. The invasive xeniid in Venezuela has not yet been identified to a certain species but was found to have a close genetic link with *Xenia membrana-acea*, a species found in Indonesia. Since this species is also able to grow over soft and hard substrates, it has started to deteriorate the ecosystem and biodiversity at the Venezuelan sites, covering up to 20% of the bottom at some areas. Because of Bonaire's proximity to Venezuela, and despite the relatively low spreading rate, this species should be closely monitored. Keep in mind when diving around the reefs to look out for these newest possible invaders and be sure to alert STINAPA or CIEE! By Kristen Prijs, a junior at Ursinus College majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. She studied in Bonaire for the summer semester of CIEE.

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Chef Vladi's Culinary Wizardry



Chef Vladi shows the Horeca students how it's done

Local boy makes good!

Chef Vladimir Gijsbertha, born, raised and schooled on Bonaire, and now an owner of an esteemed restaurant in Holland, returned recently to his native island and to his alma mater to share his cooking expertise to the students. The training culminated in a gastronomical evening at the school's restaurant, Chez Nous where Chef Vladi and his



students presented exquisitely crafted dish after dish to an amazed group of lucky diners.

Vladi was a past SGB Horeca (hospitality) student who studied and trained with Vernon Martijn. He was part of the student team that went to study in Italy at the Emilia Romagna region. He was a member of the Bonaire Culinary Team which competed against all the other Caribbean islands in Miami in 2008.

Today Vladi owns his own restaurant, "Redemption," in Moergestel, near Tilburg in The Netherlands.

Everyone appreciated the time and effort that such an important chef has given back to his island. ■ *Laura DeSalvo*
photos by *Fittipaldi Piertsz*

Word on the Street

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



In time for cruise ship season, Aqua Fun Bonaire now offers a "first" for Bonaire...what they call "Air-Hose-Snorkeling" snorkel trips. Known in the US as "Snuba" (combination of snorkel and scuba), snorkelers use a regulator and air hose that connects them to an inflatable raft, which follows along on the surface with supporting air tanks. The guided tours allow snorkeling from the surface to a depth of 20 feet. The Snuba tours are operated from a boat moored at ChaChaCha beach.

Just in time for Saint Nicholas and Santa Claus season, the new toy store at the traffic circle in Hato is a mini Toys R Us compared to previous toy stores on the island. It is chock full of toys, games and everything kids will love...many with

prices that parents won't necessarily love. The store shares the same owners as the DA Drugstore in the same mall.

Look for a new eatery opening in the next few weeks occupying three units in the Bonaire Shopping District at the Hato traffic circle. **Michi Zhen, former MCB Information Officer and owner of Breezy Delight in Rincon, will be serving breakfast and lunch at her new restaurant.** The menu will offer international favorites. Word on the street is that the new eatery will have great ambiance and a full service bar...and that Michi is a fantastic chef!

Previous Bula rumor that owners of **At Sea will be opening an additional restaurant at the former Appetite site** has been confirmed. The eatery will have a casual "Latin" theme. Which means?

Another motorcycle club on Bonaire! Iron Rocket recently inducted their first six members. The induction was held at the Iron Order MC club house and seems to have some affiliation with that group. Besides those two groups, the island is also host to Bonaire Bikers MC, Red Devils MC, Biker Friends, Femme Fatales Women's MC and numerous motorcycle "racing teams." Seems the miserable road conditions on the island don't deter these enthusiasts. ■ *Bula Bonchi*



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A Garden? Just Do It!



Papaya

The papaya is very versatile. In China green papaya is well known as a pickle popular in real Chinese food. In India it's one of the basic ingredients for different tastes of chutneys (and so also for my popular chutneys I sell at the Kriabon market). In other countries it's used in ice creams, smoothies and milkshakes, cereals, or as a dried fruit. So Google for ideas on how to enjoy papaya in different tasty and healthy ways.

Green papaya is also very good against worms in children and puppies. The white juice in the green papaya is an enemy of the worms. Mix some of this green chopped papaya (the younger the better) with some chopped garlic, add it to a cup of milk, let it sit for about an hour, then let the child drink it. See how fast the worms leave the body. This works especially well when the moon is full.

There's also a wild papaya tree very well known by the people in the Amazon jungle. The leaves of this tree are used to tenderize the meat of wild pig and deer. They wrap the meat in the big leaves for a while. The white juice of the leaves tenderizes the meat. Nice

to know this, isn't it?

You can eat papaya seeds too. They're not really tasty but good for the stomach and colon to help digest food. The stems of the leaves are nice to make bubbles. Kids in the Amazon jungle do that all the time. Take the stem, cut the leaf off and cut the stem into three parts. Dip the stem in some liquid soap, blow and look how big the bubbles are. Nice for a children's party. Have fun with pure nature and save some money too.

Some More Do You Know Things:

-The rain is great for orchids. Orchids are very special plants, sensitive and often living on air. They need to have their roots growing on trees free to catch the rainwater. Now with this rain it's an opportunity to try orchids. Put orchid plants on the tree branches. Add some coconut husks and tie them with



Orchid growing on tree

rope or wire. Just that, and as it rains after a

while you will see new orchid shoots. When the dry period begins the orchid has roots enough to live from the air and just a little bit of water or the sap from the tree. Some orchids are easy to grow and do very well in our climate.

One more thing about orchids: never put them in water. When you have no time to stick it on a tree just leave it like that. It will not die. It can stay some days just like that. When the air orchid type goes in water, it dies. And when you put it in a pot, just put little stones, some coconut husk and dry old wood around it. No dirt.

For the desert rose this rain is a bad story. If you have it in a pot outside, put it on your porch. If it has long empty stems with just some leaves on the end, cut the long stems short. Then it will flower again and get some leaves later too. So every time it flowers and then gets stems, chop them off if you want the plant to flower again. That's the secret of the nice desert rose.

-Do you know that dead wood like old dead roots of big trees and dead plants like oleander in the soil are very attractive to termites? And so if you don't pull out the dead roots in your yard you make a perfect environment for these woodlice and termites to live close to your house and later even in your house, garage or workshop. The rain now is a good help to remove these old rotten roots. Since the soil is wet and soft it's easy to pull them out or dig them out. And then, since you have a hole, put another young fresh plant there if it's not in the way.

-This is also a good time to trim your trees. Because of the rain they will new stems quickly and also bear a lot of fruit. Remove the old dead parts as well as some tiny parts that are in the way so that



Moringa tree

the main part has enough energy for the nice healthy stems to grow even better

-It's interesting to know that the moringa tree which seems so healthy grows very easily on Bonaire. It does not become really big, just about as big as a guayaba tree. Google it and you will see what kind of high healing potential healing it has. When I travel in South America I see it in all markets; people buy it like crazy. So we have this blessed plant here on Bonaire. Plant it and have your own drugstore in your garden. A cup of moringa tea in the morning and evening will power your strength for the rest of your day and busy life.

-Do you know that there are a lot of wild veggies growing all over the place because of the rain? I see them popping up in my yard so I know they are growing every-

(Continued on page 15)



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Cover story Authentic Cultural Market

At the Mangazina di Rei Cultural Market last Saturday, founder Edith Strauss-Marsera and her husband, Rob Strauss visited and were impressed with the work that has been done by the current managers, Danilo and Heleen Christiaan. The atmosphere, the good Bonairean feeling, the fragrances of baking bread and local foods seem so natural and relaxed but a lot of organization and planning has gone into this incredible project, that has become so popular as a “have to visit” site.

In the 90s Edith and Rob Strauss wanted to create some kind of cultural foundation based at the site of the crumbling Mangazina. The structure, dating from 1824, is the second oldest building on the island and served as a government storehouse for goods for the slaves. When Edith and Rob saw it, it was a true wreck, uninhabitable, falling down, a disaster. But its site was special – at the top of a hill with views of Rincon and the neighboring rolling hills.

Like minded volunteers were gathered and work began; a lot of it done personally by (the then younger) Edith and Rob. With the help of funds raised the building and surroundings were improved, a museum opened in the building, gardens started, other traditional dwellings built, even a shade house for plantings.

Edith Strauss was president of the board for many years along with Bòi Antoin and Evert Piar. In looking for “young blood” to carry



Milton Kocks serenaded the visitors with popular music



Sisters Rosalba and Shahaira Figtaroa offered local food and drinks



Echo Conservation offered plants and information

on the project Edith convinced Bonairean Danilo Christiaan, then living in Holland, to return to his native island and join them in the Mangazina project. Danilo and his wife, Heleen Christiaan-Quartel, came to Bonaire about 10 years ago and immediately went to work. “I am so proud of what they have done,” says Edith. Edith retired as head of the board about three years ago, to be replaced by Bòi Antoin. Bòi and Evert are part of the original board and hold office today. Mangazina is open Monday through Friday with tours at 9, 10, 11 am and 2 and 3 pm. Come visit and “See, Feel, Taste the Culture of Bonaire.” ■

Story & photos by
Laura DeSalvo



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Onima Aloe Vera ~ Made On Bonaire~



Gathering the Aloe —No pesticides or artificial fertilizers are used on this 100% organic plantation.

At first he looks a little surprised as I stand outside the gate at his home in Nikiboko, but soon Jaap Ensing breaks into a warm smile and welcomes me in to sit down on his porch and talk about his ‘baby’: the local Aloe Vera product Onima. Onima Aloe Vera products are made from wonderful 100% natural Aloe Vera gel from Bonaire. You can buy the Onima Aloe Vera gel as is, but Onima Aloe Vera also has a beauty line and a health care line with 13 different products total. It has taken Jaap years to develop Onima into the little local business it is today, and he proudly adds: “Onima is one of the only export products of Bonaire.”

Jaap came to the Caribbean in 1981. He laughingly jokes: “I really didn’t want to have to go into the army so I fled to Curaçao.” He had just finished his pharmaceutical studies and soon got a job as department head at the laboratory. He discovered Aloe Vera one day at a regular visit to his local dentist. The dentist used Aloe Vera to cure periodontitis, an inflammatory disease of the tissues that surround and support the teeth. At the time the dentist was using an Aloe Vera product from the States, a heavily stabilized product that he mixed with some pure local Aloe Vera gel himself to treat his patients. But, as many people here know, Aloe Vera has a very bitter taste and though the results were great, the patients complained about the flavor. He wanted Jaap to see if it was possible to make a 100% pure Aloe Vera gel with minimal stabilization. Jaap was interested and promised to look into it.

This chance meeting with the dentist resulted in a life-long fascination with the healing properties of the magical Aloe Vera plant. It was also Jaap’s challenge to try and keep the Aloe Vera completely natural while simultaneously creating a gel that could keep longer than just a couple of days: the birth of Onima Aloe Vera.

In 1992 Jaap started his first real Aloe Vera plantation of two hectares on Bonaire, at the historical Aloe Vera location, Amboina. By then he had moved from Curaçao to St. Maarten but came to Bonaire regularly to maintain the land and try different stabilization processes. He had his tools and machinery housed in the old supermarket that is the location of Free-wieler today, just across from the former Leeward Inn. His first real harvest took place in 1995. At that time he had no tube filling machines on the island as yet so the gel was sent to Holland with KLM to be put into tubes there and then shipped back



Even free-roaming donkeys, goats, iguanas and lizards are loved, petted, given names and cherished.



Close up of the aloe leaf and gel at the workshop at home where Jaap cuts and processes all the plants by hand

to the local market here and in St. Maarten. The first place that sold Onima Aloe Vera at the time was Botica Bonaire as well as The Friendly Island Pharmacy in St. Maarten (Cole Bay and Simpson Bay.)

After 10 hurricanes in St. Maarten, in which the pharmacy he worked in was flooded many times, and with the love of Onima Aloe Vera in his heart he decided in 2000 to move to Bonaire permanently. By then his original plantation was no more. In 1997 the government had started ground excavation works at Amboina. In the meantime Jaap had a little plantation on land of local friends at Rooi

Lamoenchi. Finally in 2003 he got a piece of land back in the Amboina area where he is still farming the Aloe Vera today.

“You could say that Onima Aloe Vera gel is the purest Aloe Vera gel in the world today,” says Jaap. This dedicated entrepreneur found a way to keep the molecular structure of the gel alive so all the healing properties of the Aloe Vera gel stay intact while simultaneously stabilizing it with a 0.1% of stabilizer per batch. This means that the gel can stay good for up to five years but has to be kept cool, preferably less than 25 degrees Celsius, say in the fridge, for optimal conservation.

Jaap clarifies a little more: “Many Aloe

Vera products today are made with freeze-dried Aloe Vera powder, a process that involves heating the gel to 75 degrees Celsius in which the properties that make Aloe Vera gel so special are destroyed. Then, more often than not, the Aloe Vera gel is filtered through carbon which also damages the structure and the healing properties of Aloe Vera. The reason most companies that sell Aloe Vera products filter through carbon is to take away any natural coloring of the gel.” He smiles and says: “Onima is different. Put the gel in the sun for a day or so and you’ll see discoloration, the way Aloe Vera gel will discolor naturally in the sun.

Jaap looks at me and with real passion in his eyes and says, “You know I never intended Onima to be a business or to put it on the market the way it is today. I created the best way to press and stabilize Aloe Vera gel so the gel still has the same healing properties as it does when you use it straight from the leaf – that was the journey for me. But my dentist wanted some and my family did too and before long so did some friends and others who heard that the gel really worked. People from abroad started believing in the power of the Aloe Vera plant so I kept making the gel and slowly created more products as people had different ailments to cure.

“You see,” says Jaap, “Aloe Vera has the amazing property of being able to penetrate the skin, to soften and heal the skin from the inside out.” “Here, rub a bit of gel on your hand,” he says, “and you’ll see after a minute or so it’s gone.” Now add a natural healing oil or herb like lavender, arnica or Shea butter to this gel and the gel takes the added product along so the cream you rub onto your skin doesn’t stay on your skin as a layer but truly penetrates it and heals from the inside out.”

Jaap shows me his workshop behind the house and explains that this is where he presses, stabilizes and stores the Aloe Vera gel in a cold room. He fills out his tubes at home by hand. A question about visiting the plantation is confirmative but he needs a bit of time. “I work as a pharmacist here locally and for the past years I’ve just about managed to harvest and make products but not to do plantation visits. I just haven’t had the time to take people there or to organize any tours.”

Thankfully, Jaap’s family has arrived to help him a little, and soon he will organize a day to take all interested people to visit the plantation. If you would like to visit the plantation in Amboina please send him a message on his Facebook page/Onima Aloe. ‘Like’ the page and you will be kept up-to-date on upcoming plantation visits, and special offers. ■

Sanny Ensing



Onima Aloe Vera products are for sale at Van der Tweel supermarket, Warehouse supermarket, Botica Bonaire, Botica Korona, DA Druggist, La Placita and online at www.onima-aloe.com.



Bonaire On Wheels

This is the 132nd of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n (wear a helmet) Brouwer about Bonaire's interesting vehicles and persons that are On Wheels

ROY WINKLAAR AND HIS MIGHTY MOUSE

Kralendijk/Bonaire –

So that day, around noon, when I drove the truck through Kaya Grandi/Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot in the direction of the house with the helmets in Hato aan Zee, out of the right corner of my eye I noticed another unidentified new vehicle. The motorized two wheeler was parked in front of a new local bar. I turned around, stopped my truck, grabbed my camera and jumped out. A fully chromed bicycle with a small two-stroke engine, mounted in the triangular part of the frame. Obviously this was a new subject for an article in *The Bonaire Reporter*.

No shoes! On bare feet I entered the bar and asked around who the owner of that small motorized bicycle was. The guy hanging out in the bar told me that the owner of the micro motorcycle had gone out for a walk just a few minutes ago. Strange! The owner had just left and the machine was still parked in front of the bar. I recognized the guy in the bar. Once, years ago, I wrote an article about his white Volkswagen Beetle and his Baha Buggy—a yellow sprayed, shortened and converted Volkswagen Beetle. For years and years he's been into Volkswagens. His garden paved with German car parts waiting for assembling. In one of the corners of his terrain in Hato is an Opel GT, also made in Germany, nicknamed baby Corvette, waits for restoration. (Chevrolet and Opel are both members of

the General Motors Company/jb.) Then the guy admitted he was the owner of the fuel powered bicycle and I asked for permission to write an article. And he remembered the article about his Baha Buggy. So another article was not a problem.

So, as a real reporter, I asked the Chinese lady behind the bar for a piece of paper and something to write with. The gentleman—What was his nickname? What was his email address? Absolute silence... Born on Bonaire a very long time ago he had collected a lot of different nicknames, so he decided just to give me his real name: **Roy Winklaar**.

The "motorcycle" he found via the internet. The creature has only been on the island of Bonaire since October 2014. It is based on a Firmstrong American style beach cruiser, designed in Hermosa Beach, California. The bicycle frame is fully chromed and holds a sturdy front fork and two wheels with white wall 26 X 2.125 tires. The seat has comfortable spring suspension and the wide handle bars are of the easy lean back and relax type.

What makes this American designed beach cruiser special is the mounting of a small two-stroke engine in the center of the triangular frame. A second sprocket is mounted with bolts and nuts and rubbers on the left hand side of the rear wheel. A special tensioner keeps the engine and the rear wheel connected the right way. On the right hand side of the handle bar there is a throttle and a gas cable and an ignition button. Interesting. The small two-stroke engine meas-



Roy and his interesting toy

ures some 65 cc.

Roy Winklaar: "When I got this engine powered bicycle by the internet and imported it to Bonaire it was brand new. Bicycle design is American, but all parts, as far as I found out, are made and/or assembled in China. So I had to take some parts apart and fiddle a little with electrics and electronics. Now it works fine. You start it by pedaling the bike. It does some 50 kilometers an hour; fuel consumption is absolutely unknown as there is no speedometer, no odometer, no nothing. Law says this is an ordinary bicycle with the assistance of a very little fuel engine."

Roy Winklaar shows me all the details: The completely chromed tank which holds



Another of Roy's vehicles is this VW

the pre-mixed two-stroke juice, the flexible fuel pipe, the very small Keihin look-alike carburetor, the engine itself, the tiny chromed exhaust system. About the original design he does not know. Roy: "It is very hard to find information about the machine on the internet. Design has to go back decades and decades, may be even before World War II. Look at these old fashioned slot screws. They did not even use the more modern and more efficient Phillips-head screws!"

Then he finishes his last beer for the moment, pays the lady and takes position on his ultra-light weight. Ignition is on, fuel is reaching the carburetor. He peddles away in the direction of Hato. The two-stroke single piston powered engine takes over: "Plop-plop-plop-plop." Hato, here he comes.

It will take some time but Roy will get there. And there will be another final opportunity to grab another beer before Roy and his motorcycle will be home. Rainy season started but temperatures are still high enough to legalize another refreshment! ■

Story & photos by Jan Brouwer



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House for RENT: 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, 4 minutes walking to the ocean, Kaya Mississippi 1, Price: \$1000
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 Republic on Kaya Turkesa. 1.240 m2.
Tel. 795-9760.

One person rooms for rent at Hato aan Zee: digitalis1956@hotmail.com/

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. **Call 796-5530.**

Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 08	14:10	23:15				6:44	18:10
	14:55	23:50					
Tue 09	0.93 ft	-0.18 ft				6:45	18:11
	06:44	09:23	15:37				
Wed 10	0.43 ft	0.42 ft	0.86 ft			6:45	18:11
		00:20	06:59	10:53	16:17		
Thu 11	-0.16 ft	0.49 ft	0.43 ft	0.78 ft	6:46	18:11	
		00:45	07:18	12:12	16:56		
Fri 12	-0.13 ft	0.55 ft	0.42 ft	0.69 ft	6:46	18:12	
		01:07	07:37	13:24	17:36		
Sat 13	-0.10 ft	0.62 ft	0.39 ft	0.60 ft	6:47	18:12	
	Last Quarter	01:27	07:59	14:31	18:17		
Sun 14	-0.07 ft	0.69 ft	0.35 ft	0.51 ft	6:47	18:13	
		01:45	08:22	15:36	19:01		
Mon 15	-0.04 ft	0.76 ft	0.29 ft	0.42 ft	6:48	18:13	
		02:03	08:48	16:41	19:49		
Tue 16	-0.02 ft	0.84 ft	0.22 ft	0.32 ft	6:49	18:13	
		02:19	09:17	17:43	20:44		
Wed 17	0.00 ft	0.91 ft	0.14 ft	0.23 ft	6:49	18:14	
		02:36	09:50	18:43	21:50		
Thu 18	0.02 ft	0.98 ft	0.07 ft	0.15 ft	6:50	18:14	
		02:53	10:26	19:39	23:11		
Fri 19	0.03 ft	1.04 ft	-0.01 ft	0.10 ft	6:50	18:15	
		03:13	11:06	20:28			
Sat 20	0.05 ft	1.08 ft	-0.08 ft		6:51	18:15	
	00:52	03:35	11:51	21:11	New Moon		
Sun 21	0.08 ft	0.07 ft	1.10 ft	-0.13 ft	6:51	18:16	
	02:54	03:55	12:38	21:50			
Mon 22	0.11 ft	0.11 ft	1.10 ft	-0.18 ft	6:52	18:16	

NARCISSISM -How to recognize it

Is your partner a complete different person to the outside then in your relationship?

Is your partner addicted to alcohol, drugs and or sex?

Is your partner devaluating everything what he/she loved you for in the beginning?

Is your partner only interested in him/herself?

Is your partner only talking about him/herself and how great he/she is?

Is your partner giving you the silence time out?

If there are more then three answers you can say YES to.....then most likely your partner is a narcissist.

For more info and advice, you can email to: Narcissistno@gmail.com



Giant Mountain Bikes— One small frame and one X-large frame . \$250 each **Call 717-5426 or 786-5246**

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Bonaire Animal Shelter
Call 717-4989

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

Celebrating 20+ years of publishing

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info@bonairereporter.com

The Bonaire Reporter, George DeSalvo (G.D.), Publisher; Laura DeSalvo (L.D.), Editor - Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. Available on-line at: www.bonairereporter.com *Published every two weeks*

Reporters: James Albury, Angliet Baidjoe, Jan Brouwer, Bula Bonchi, Sanny Ensing, Greta Kooistra, Kristin Prijs, Dean Regas, Michael Thiessen, Marlies Tjepel, Carla Verheggen, Sarah Williams

Unattributed photos are by the editor or publisher.

Distribution: Marlene & Co. (Playa), Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Divi-Divi Airline, Ava Rose Wuyts (mailing)

Housekeeping: JRA.

Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao © 2014 *The Bonaire Reporter*

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

Nature's Discount has a complete selection of vitamins, supplements, herbs, sports nutrition, body care and natural foods.

LIQUORS, WINES and MORE

Best Cellars has one of the island's widest selection of spirits including "hard-to-finds" 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

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. **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

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

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.

Penny Lane is Bonaire's first upscale consignment store. Buy fashionable, top brand clothing, high quality toys and more for a fraction of their original price.



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)

No Fast Foods (For Wild Parrots)

How many native trees do you know? A combination of historic and modern day threats means that some species are very close to becoming extinct from Bonaire. Helping Bonaire's rare plants to recover, regenerate and reproduce is important if there is to be a healthy forest left in the future.

Echo is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the protection of the Yellow Shouldered Amazon Parrot (Lora). To protect the parrots in the long term we must restore the dry-forest of Bonaire. Bonaire is special because we have lots of forest but the forest is in poor health. In the 1800s, early European and American settlers cut down most of Bonaire's big trees. Making matters worse since that time there has also been free ranging goats, donkeys, and more recently pigs, that are not. With all those herbivores the regeneration of any plants that were not thorny or toxic was prevented which meant that the diversity (the mixture) almost disappeared. Now we see a forest that is dominated by acacia and mesquite but where are the other species, such as Hoba, and Sabal Palm?

Parrots look for trees with seeds and fruit. They spend about 6-12 hours a day foraging. No fast food for them. The native habitat, when it had diversity, would provide them with food year round, because the different trees had different fruiting times. But in the current situation there are times where there is no more food in the 'mondi', forcing them to go into peoples' gardens, with the risk of getting shot or stoned.



Youngsters visit the Dos Pos Conservation Center

The loss of trees also affects breeding parrots as they do not make a typical birds nest. When a Parrot pair wants to breed they need a big, hollow tree trunk. They make an excellent and safe place for a nest. Trees this size may take 100s of years to grow. The Wayaka for example can live for 1000 years.

So, what can we do? How about we bring back Bonaire's native habitat? Restoring habitats on a large scale has the potential to improve the health of our ecosystems in a big way, providing parrots with food and safe nesting sites. We have made a start at our 'Dos Pos Conservation Center'. If you are interested, please come to our Tree Planting Day on December 13 at 8 am at Dos Pos. ■ Photo & Story by Sarah Williams

A Garden, Just Do It
(Continued from page 9)

where. These veggies are really very healthy and delicious. I will mention a few which are well known by Bonairean folks.

----**Bimbe**. A small, low growing plant with tiny yellow flowers. The whole plant with stem and flowers is good to eat. You need a lot to have it enough for a family, but there is enough. Just rinse, chop and prepare like spinach. It tastes great.

----**Gomawiri**. Well known by Surinamese people it's a popular veggie in Surinam and grows easily here too. My whole yard is full of it. Take the leaves and the whole top, rinse and chop and wok it with garlic, onions and some dried shrimp or chopped salted beef or egg.

----**Postelein**. Dutch people know this one-an old veggie which doesn't appear among the modern vegetables, but it's a great veggie. Wok it with other veggies like spinach or mix it in a stoba (stew) and you eat a world of healthiness. Just look for it. If you find it, plant it because it grows so easily and you'll soon have a



Wild veggies: bottom-Postelein, top left-Bimbe, top right-Gomawiri

lot of it. Its small, purple flowers are nice too. Bonaireans often have it as a decorative plant.

Now this is some very healthy stuff that just grows naturally without spraying. Iguanas don't eat them, but if they do, there's still enough growing everywhere, maybe in your own yard. Ask locals to show you them and enjoy what nature is giving you for free for your health. ■Story & photos by

Angliet
-Nature
Lover



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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 entry.

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	M/D	Ship Name	Time In	# PAX	Line
Monday	12/8/	<i>Mein Schiff 1</i>	07.00-19.00	2114	TUI
Monday	12/8/	<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	08.00-17.00	3114	RCCL
Tuesday	12/9/	<i>Azura</i>	08.00-18.00	3080	P & O
Wednesday	12/10/	<i>Aida Luna</i>	07.00-18.00	2194	Aida
Saturday	12/13/	<i>Seabourn Legend</i>	08.00-18.00	208	HAL
Saturday	12/13/	<i>Prinsendam</i>	08.00-	835	HAL
Tuesday	12/16/	<i>Ventura</i>	08.00-18.00	3080	P & O
Friday	12/19/	<i>Legend of the Seas</i>	07.00-14.00	2435	RCCL
Friday	12/19/	<i>Thompson Dream</i>	08.00-20.00	1150	Thompson
Monday	12/22/	<i>Mein Schiff 1</i>	07.00-19.00	2114	TUI
Monday	12/22/	<i>Maasdam</i>	12.00-	1258	HAL

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.com

• **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. Get an insight into Echo's work and best of all it is led by local guides who are eager to share their knowledge of Bonaire and are donation based. Meet at the Dos Pos windmill before :30 pm and bring good shoes as it's "off road." Alternatively you can book a private tour through Flow Bonaire 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

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 Crisita 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 7:00 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, 717-8332.

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

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Friday, Dec. 12—Seniors' Dinner for 125 or more elders. Donations asked: "Divi MCB #10318506—For Seniors' Dinner, Dec. 12 Event"

Organized by Mike Gaynor [tzdakah@hotmail.com] and Delno Tromp [delno33@yahoo.com]

Saturday, Dec. 13

—Animal Shelter Book & Flea Market - Books, clothes, household items, crafts, more...drinks, snacks. At the Shelter on the Lagoen Road, 9am-5pm. Still accepting donated items until Friday, Dec. 12. Call 717-4989 for more information. More on page 18.

—**Tree Planting Day, Dos Pos, 8am**. More on page 15

—**Volcano Challenge BBQ fundraiser**. Call Roan 701-5482. More on page 19

Sunday, Dec. 21—Huge Dive Gear Market organized by Dive Friends Bonaire at the Hamlet Oasis, 10am-3pm. More on page 16

Friday, Dec. 26—Christmas Concert-Christmas songs, Antillean dances, classical and popular music, San Bernardo Church, 7:30 pm.

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:

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

info@bonairereporter.com



THE STARS HAVE IT

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen
December 2014

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Discuss your objectives with peers or lovers. You can surprise members of your family, which in turn will bring you a pat on the back. Home improvement projects will run smoothly. Avoid being intimately involved with clients or colleagues. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Spend time getting into physical activities with your lover. Look into projects that you feel would contribute something to your appearance. Take a close look at any contracts you've signed in order to be sure exactly where you stand. Exercise is always a good way to relieve stress. Your luckiest events will occur on Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You have bent over backward trying to help them and now it's time to let them stand on their own two feet. Don't take offense at comments made by coworkers. Your sensitive, affectionate nature will capture the heart of anyone you are attracted to. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Valuable information can be yours if you listen to those with experience. Your flair for dramatic appeal will unleash itself at social functions. Your philanthropic contributions will bring you praise. You would be wise to consider attending lectures that will broaden your awareness concerning your professional direction. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Check your personal papers and make sure everything is in order. You'll find it easy to deal with government agencies or large institutions. Unexpected events may upset your routine. Travel will be in your best interest regardless of whether it is business or pleasure. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Try to curb your bad habits, and compromise if your partner gives you an ultimatum. You're on to something tangible and need to act fast. Be willing to listen, but don't be fooled. Social events held in your home will be successful and entertaining for all. Your luckiest events this month

will occur on a Monday.
LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You're on the right track and you can make money if you are willing to go out on a limb. Make career changes that may increase your income. Be inquisitive about unfamiliar circumstances. Opportunities for romance will develop through activities with large groups. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 -Nov. 22) If you can get away for a vacation, do so. Pamper yourself this month. You may find that your documents are not in order. One of your female friends may try to disrupt your day. Stand up for your rights. Your luckiest events will occur on a Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You can learn a great deal if you listen to those who are older or more experienced. You may find yourself in the limelight for the wrong reasons. You can make the most headway if you put in some overtime. Abrupt action will cause difficulties with relatives. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Arguments with relatives may lead to a split in the family. Don't make accusations unless you are completely sure that you are correct. You can meet potential new mates, but make sure that they aren't already committed to someone else. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You are best to be accommodating for the time being. Sudden romantic infatuations won't be lasting. Residential moves should be considered carefully. You may find that getting together with colleagues after hours will be worthwhile. Beware of individuals who are not that reliable or well known to you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You will be full of energy and you need to find something constructive to do. Don't let others know about your private affairs. Complete those hobbies you started a long time ago. Use your obvious talent to work with detail and you can come up with something great. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday. ■



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

METEOR SHOWER

The 13th brings the best meteor shower, the **Geminids**. A meteor every minute or two should appear in dark rural skies between 8 and 11pm. After 11:30, the unwelcome **Moon** will rise to brighten the heavens. The Geminids are one of the best and most reliable meteor showers of the year. You can expect to see a shooting star per minute from a good, dark location. The meteors may appear in any part of the sky so look toward the darkest and most wide open part of the sky that you can see.

The peak time for viewing the Geminids is from darkness on December 13 to dawn on December 14. The **Moon** rises before midnight, and its brightness will begin to interfere with viewing the meteor shower as the night progresses. The Geminids themselves tend to be fairly bright, so the Moon won't have a major impact until 1 to 2 hours after it rises. Note that while the Geminids officially peak on December 13-14, you'll still be able to see some meteors for a few nights both before and after the peak.

Planets

Lots of action from the planets in December.

Mercury is not visible for the early part of the month but joins Venus along the southwestern horizon after sunset around December 30 onwards.

Venus returns to our evening southwestern sky after sunset around the middle of the month. Look for bright Venus to gain elevation from night to night thereafter. On December 22 look for Venus just below and to the east of a very slim and barely visible **waxing crescent Moon**. It is a harbinger of its superb evening star apparition this coming spring



Mars is found low to the south-southwest at sunset this month. For most of December, Mars can be found within the constellation of **Capricornus**, the sea goat. On December 24 look for Mars just below the young waxing crescent Moon.

Jupiter rises in the east-northeast in the evening and slowly moves in an arc in a westward direction through the night until it is found high in the southwestern sky by sunrise. Jupiter is located within the constellation of **Leo, the lion**, and can be seen just to the west of the bright star **Regulus**. Look for Jupiter above the **waning gibbous Moon** on the nights of December 11 and 12.

Saturn rises out of the glare of the rising **Sun** early in the month along the southeastern horizon.

When is the **solstice** where YOU live? The solstice happens at the same instant for all of us, everywhere on **Earth**. In 2014, the December solstice comes on December 21 at 7:03pm Sky Park Time. That's 23:03 Universal Time. It's when the Sun on our sky's dome reaches its farthest southward point for the year. At this solstice, the Northern Hemisphere has its shortest day and longest night of the year. Happy solstice, everyone. Winter is starting but we can hardly tell in Bonaire except that there are more visitors. ■Dean Regas & James Albury



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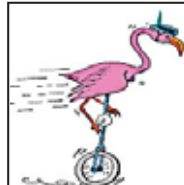
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Pet of the Week

PUPPIES GALORE

There are still puppies at the Bonaire Animal Shelter who will kiss you, charm you and make you laugh. Here's Ava Rose with two of the newest- little black and white darlings who were born in the *mondi* to a wild mother. Good Samaritans tried to catch the mom too so she could be sterilized, but to no avail. However, they did get her three pups and brought them into the Shelter. They were all in good condition and have been checked out by the vet, given their shots and worming and set free to do their antics for Shelter visitors. Right now they're about six weeks old, healthy and social -just right for adoption. There are other pups there too, males, females, black, brown, combination colors – total variety. This group is so full of fun and energy.

All of you new pup owners should realize that if you want a well behaved dog then you have to spend some time in training. Those first few weeks are so important to give the pup your time and attention. Believe me, it will pay off in spades later. Pups seem to want to do the right thing to make their master or mistress happy. It's a wonderful feeling



Ava meets some puppies

when someone says to you, "My, your dog is well behaved!" Everyone wins and it just takes some time, especially at the beginning.

You may see these puppies and the other animals available for adoption at the Shelter on the Lagun Road, open Monday through Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm and 3 to 5 pm. Tel. 717-4989. Website: BonaireAnimalShelter.com. They're on Facebook and Twitter too. ■ Story & photo by Laura DeSalvo

Shelter News



The new cat compound

VERY SPECIAL BOOK AND FLEA MARKET, ESPECIALLY FOR FELINE FRIENDS

Mark on your calendar, Saturday, December 13. From 9 am to 5 pm the Shelter will have another of their very popular and successful Book & Flea Markets, where you can do all your Christmas shopping. All the proceeds go to helping to keep the Shelter open for unwanted cats and dogs. This time it will be a very special market because it will be official opening of the new cat compound.

Book & Flea Market

The market features a large selection of secondhand books and thousands of flea market items ranging from clothing and household goods to paintings and chil-

dren's items. The fair is popular and usually draws a large crowd, so it's a good opportunity to meet up with friends, re-stock your book supply, pick up some bestsellers for your long flight home, and visit with the animals. All the funds raised from the event go towards keeping the Shelter open for unwanted cats and dogs.

Donate They are looking for donations of unwanted or unused items. Now's the time to clean out those closets and get rid of what you can't use (it's very therapeutic and cleansing) and help the Animal Shelter. What's junk to you can be a treasure to someone else! Drop off your things by Friday, December 12.

Cat palace

In 2014 the Animal Shelter completed building a new cat compound. And on December 13 at 10 o'clock the new feline palace will be officially opened. And of course everyone is invited, especially all our feline friends. You can watch the adoptable cats in the Bonaire Shelter on Bonaire Cat Cam ■ Story & photos by Marlies Tiepel



www.bonairecatcam.com



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Nicaragua Volcano Challenge

Yes! They made it! Roan Jaspars and Carla Verheggen rode mountain bikes about 400 km through the rough terrain of Nicaragua to collect money for the project of *Wereldouders*.

Approximately three months ago a friend of Roan Jaspars asked him to sponsor him for this trip. Roan had a look into it and instead of sponsoring him, he decided to join the project himself! Roan thought it would be nice to travel with a companion from Bonaire, so he found Carla Verheggen, who immediately was enthusiastic to join. So they started collecting funds from friends and local businesses and started training and training and training...

All the money they collected goes to *Stichting Wereldouders*, a Dutch stichting which supports orphanages in nine different Central and South American countries, one of them being in Nicaragua. In this particular orphanage in Nicaragua - Casa Padre Wasson - live approximately 200 kids of all ages.



Some orphans, others from families who couldn't take care of them anymore, others neglected, abused or worse. In Casa Padre Wasson they have built different houses, in which 10 to 12 kids approximately the same age live together with two *tios* or *tias* who take care of them. They go to school, get three meals a day, learn to dance, make music and much more. When capable they can go to university, either in Managua or some in the US. Others get skilled in woodworking, car repairing, sewing, cooking and

much more. They get the opportunity to make something out of their lives and make a difference. The Casa Padre Wasson also grows most of their own food and has livestock for producing meat and eggs. And of course for all of this they need money. The state does not support them at all.

So here there are 10 crazy people, seven from the Netherlands, one from Switzerland and two from Bonaire, who decided to take this 'uitdaging' to cycle 400 km through this beautiful country and



raise money.

For the first two nights we stayed in Casa Padre Wasson together with the kids. So we saw exactly what good the money is doing for them. We even went cycling with a few of them. Then the big adventure started. From the Casa Padre Wasson we went to the beautiful coast where we spent the afternoon on the beach. Then on to the island of Ometepe where we circumnavigated two volcanoes. Then after another visit to the Casa on to Granada, a very authentic and beautiful village on the edge of the lake. After five days of cycling on dirt roads and muddy trails, going through deep rivers and over high

mountains, everybody is tired but happy. It was an awesome and beautiful experience, very well organized and something to never ever forget. And together we have collected up to 55.000 euro for this awesome project.

Did this make you enthusiastic? There are still possibilities to sponsor this project by donating money or buy a ticket for the Volcano Challenge Charity BBQ on the 13th of December. For more info contact Roan 7015482. Or have a look on www.volcanochallenge.com Of course you can also be a biker next year! ■ Story & photos by Carla Verheggen





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